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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ELECTROPOLISHING AND ELECTROPLATING METHODS

(57) Abstract: In one aspect of the present invention, an exemplary method is provided for electroplating a conductive film on a wafer. The method includes electroplating a metal film on a semiconductor structure having recessed regions and non-recessed region within a first current density range before the metal layer is planar above recessed regions of a first density, and electroplating within a second current density range after the metal layer is planar above the recessed regions. The second current density range is greater than the first current density range. In one example, the method further includes electroplating in the second current density range until the metal layer is planar above recessed regions of a second density, the second density being greater than the first density, and electroplating within a third current density range thereafter.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/11417

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C25D 5/00, 5/48, 5/52, 5/50, 5/08; B23H 11/00, 3/00, 5/00, 7/00, 9/00

US CL : 205/96, 640, 644, 220, 223, 224, 133

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 205/96, 640, 644, 220, 223, 224, 133

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EAST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,162,344 A (REID et al) 19 December 2000 (19.12.2000), col. 2 and claims 3, 4, and 5.	1-20
X	US 6,261,963 B1 (ZHAO et al) 17 July 2001 (17.07.2001), cols. 6 and 7.	21-37, 51-66
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A		67-78
X,P	US 2003/0038038 A1 (BASOL et al) 27 February 2003 (27.02.2003), paragraph 0025.	38-50
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A,P		51-78
X	US 2002/0000271 A1 (RITZDORF et al) 3 January 2002 (03.01.2002), paragraphs 0001 to 0077.	38-66
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A		67-78

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24 September 2003 (24.09.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Wesley A. Nicolas

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document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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Wesley A. Nicolas

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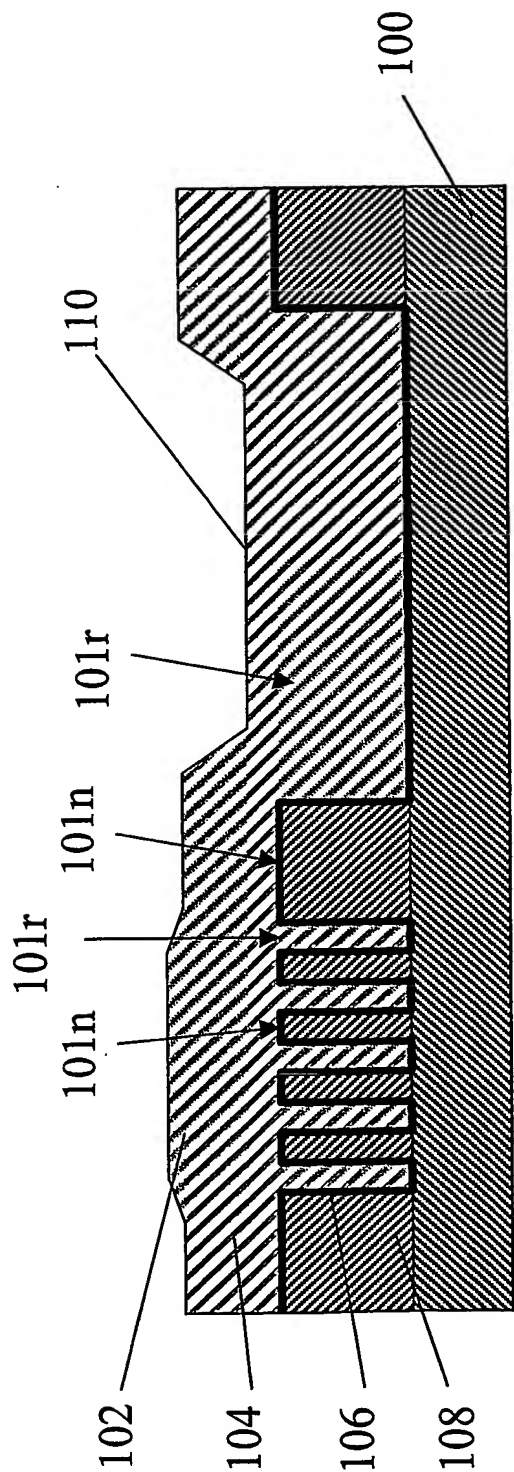


Fig. 1A

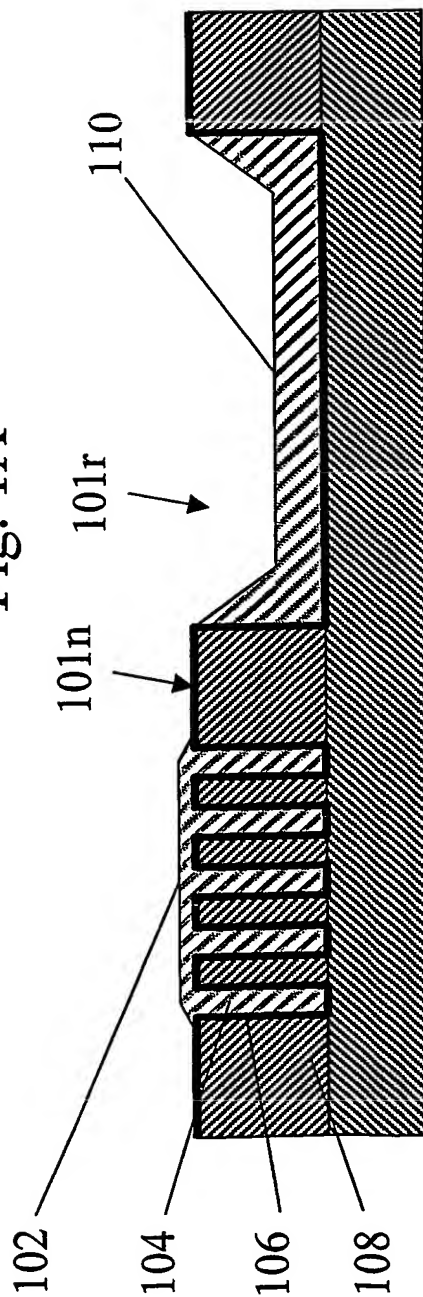
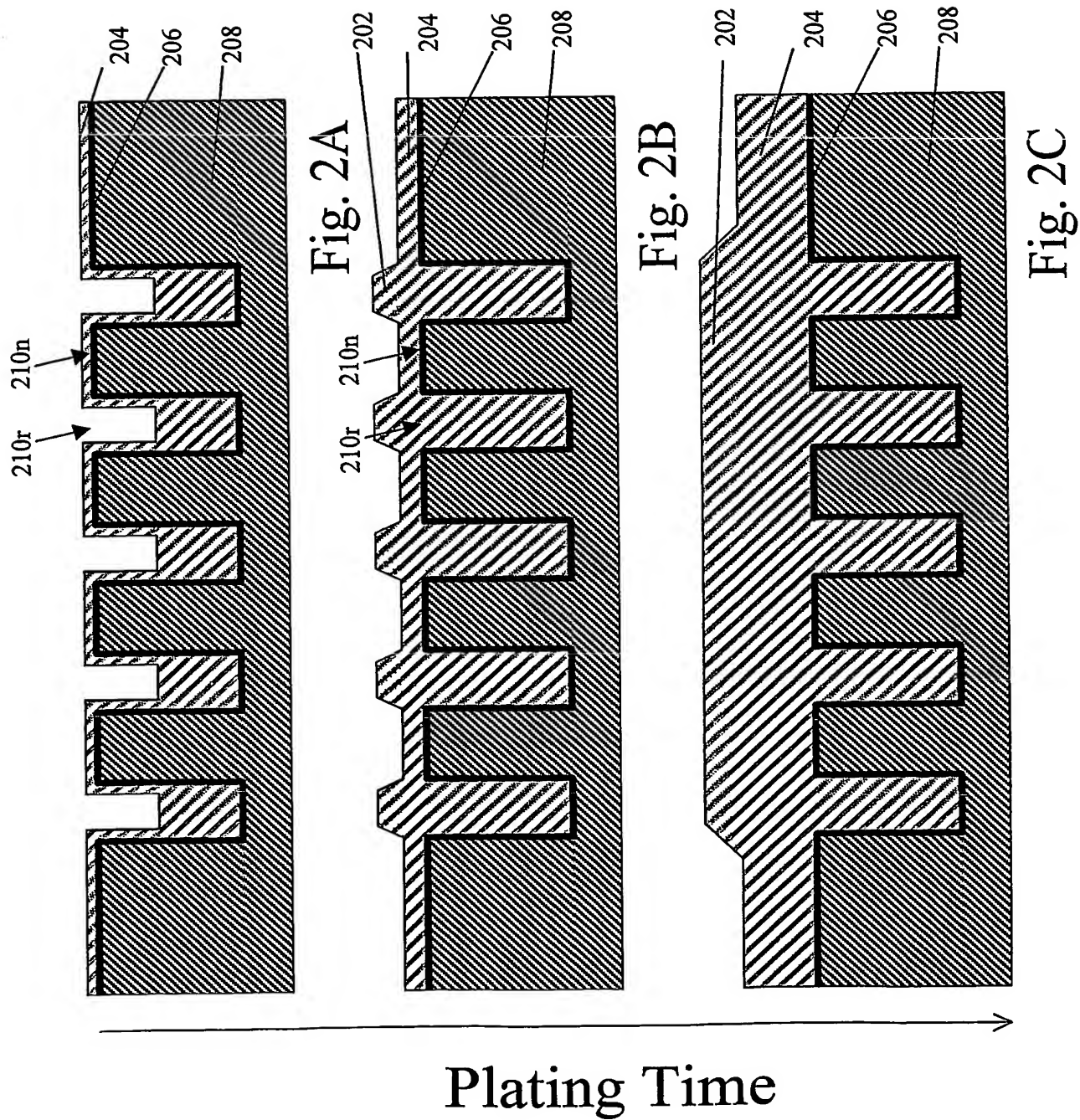


Fig. 1B



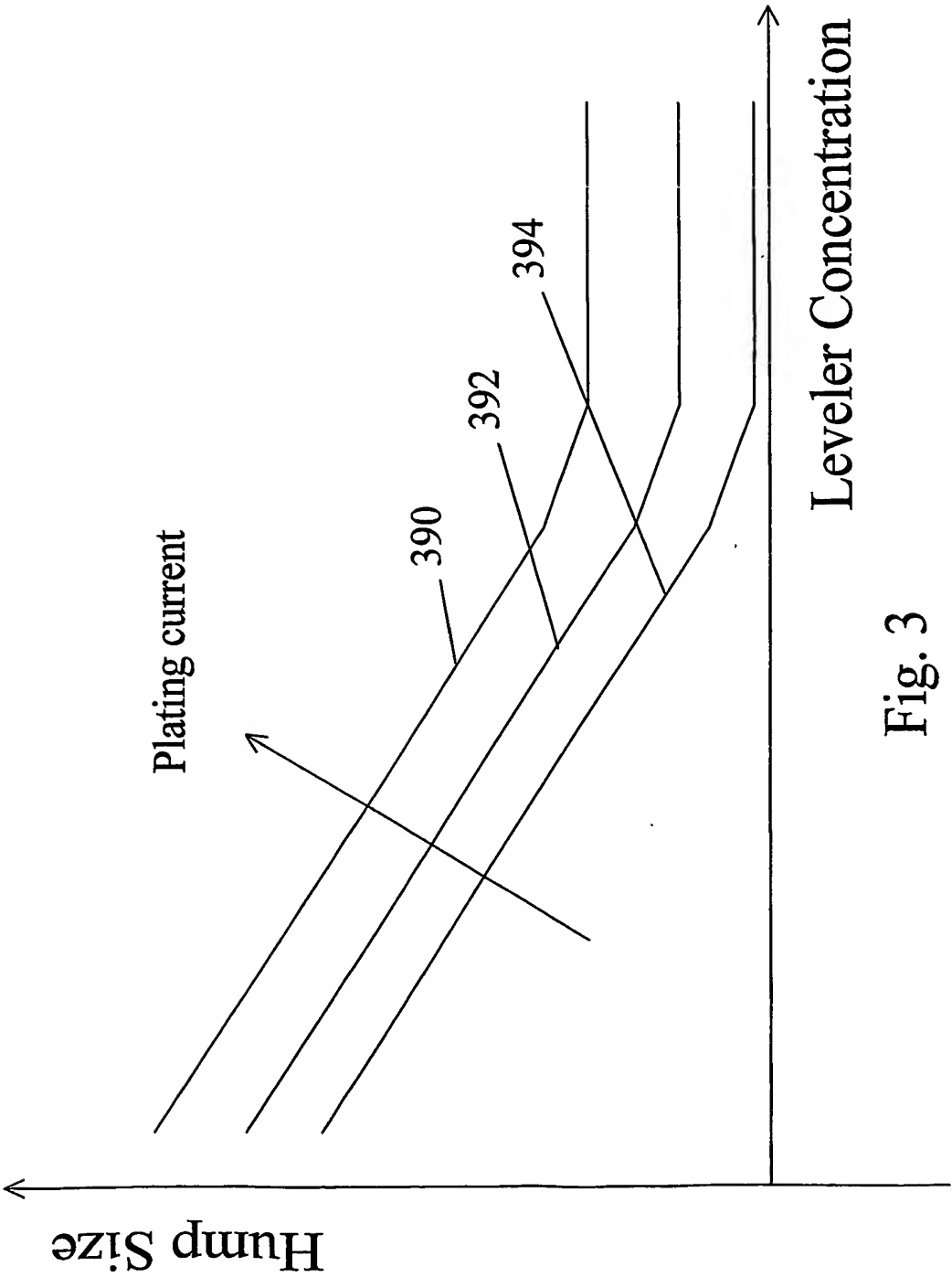


Fig. 3

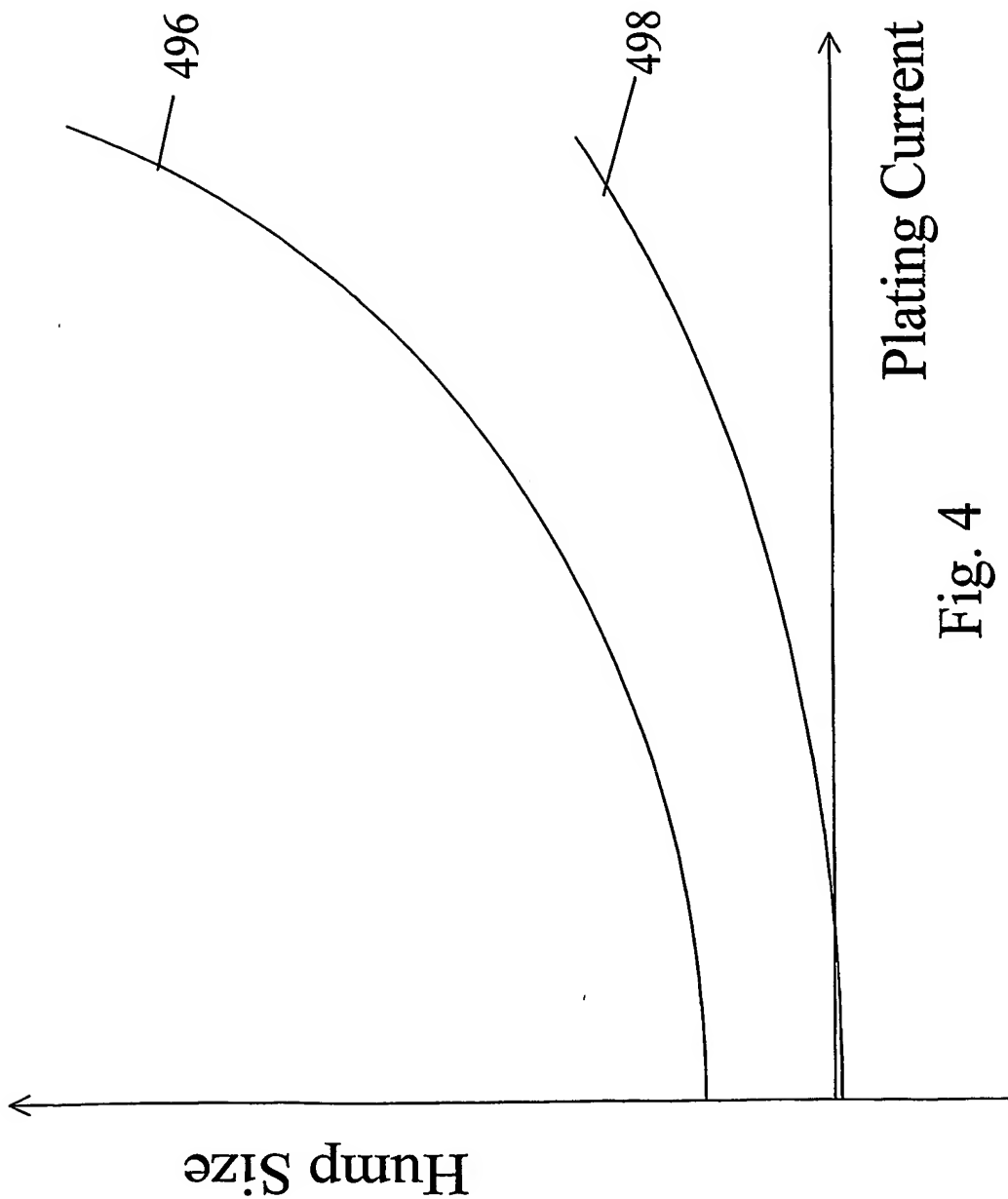
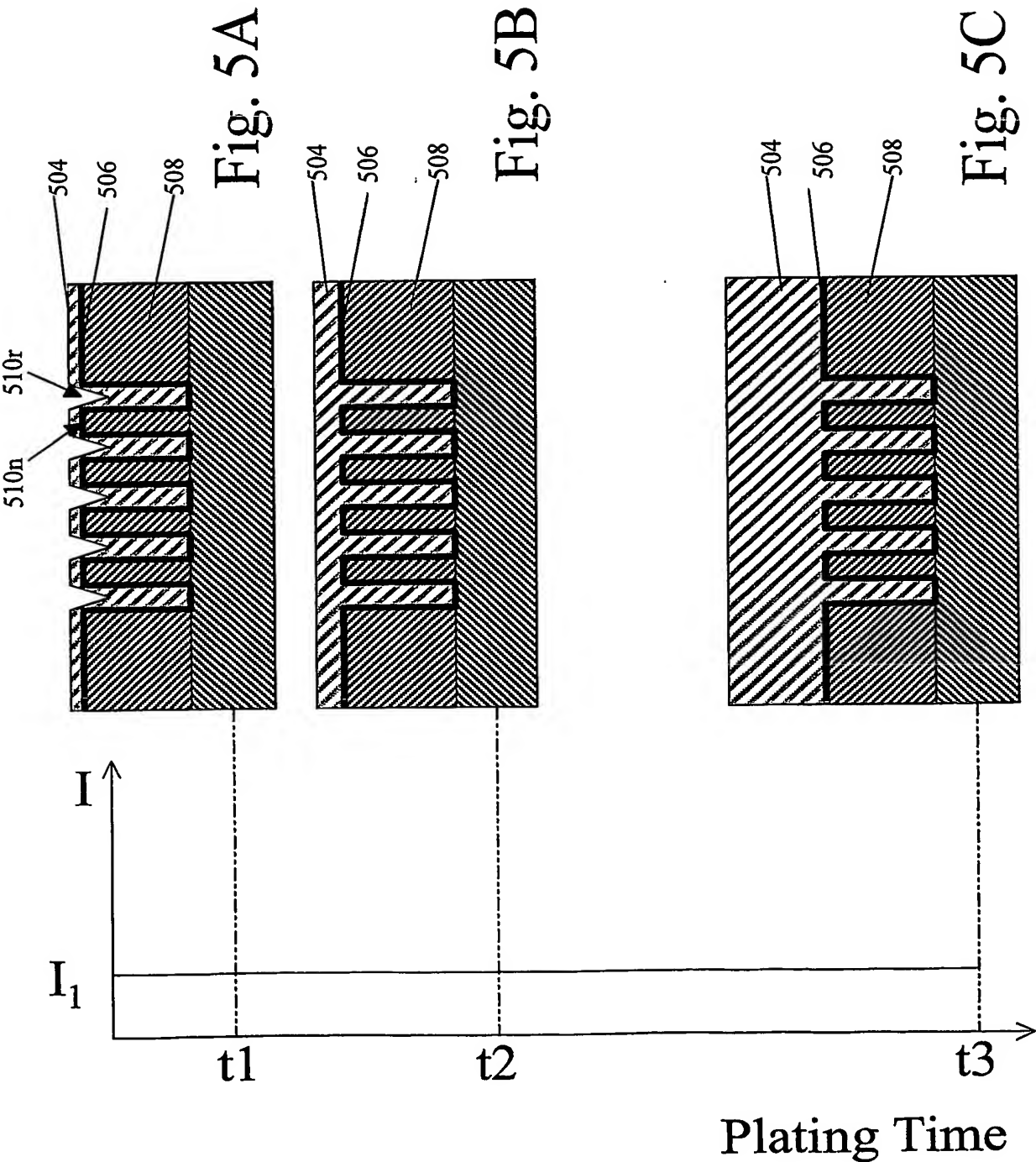
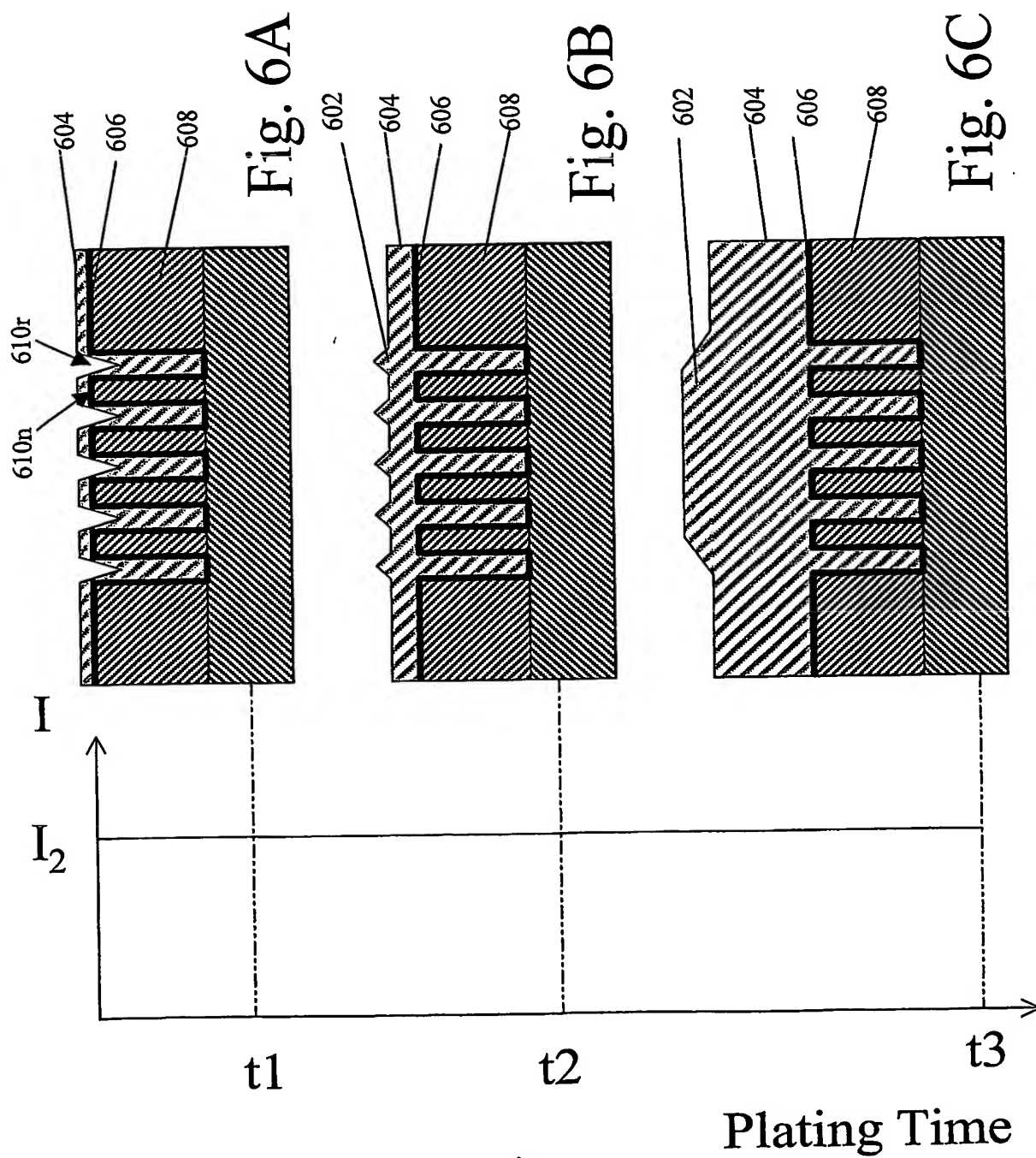
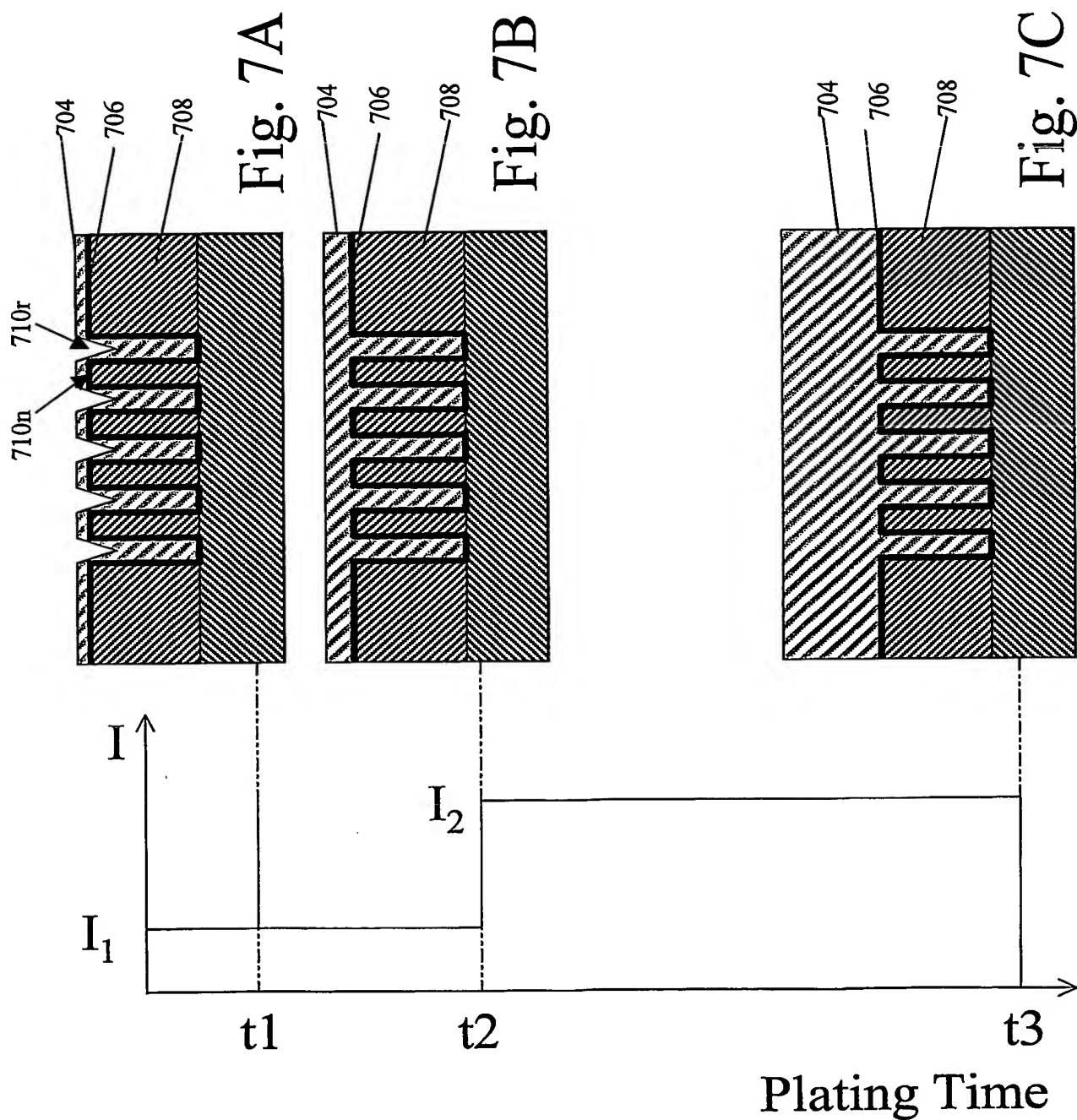
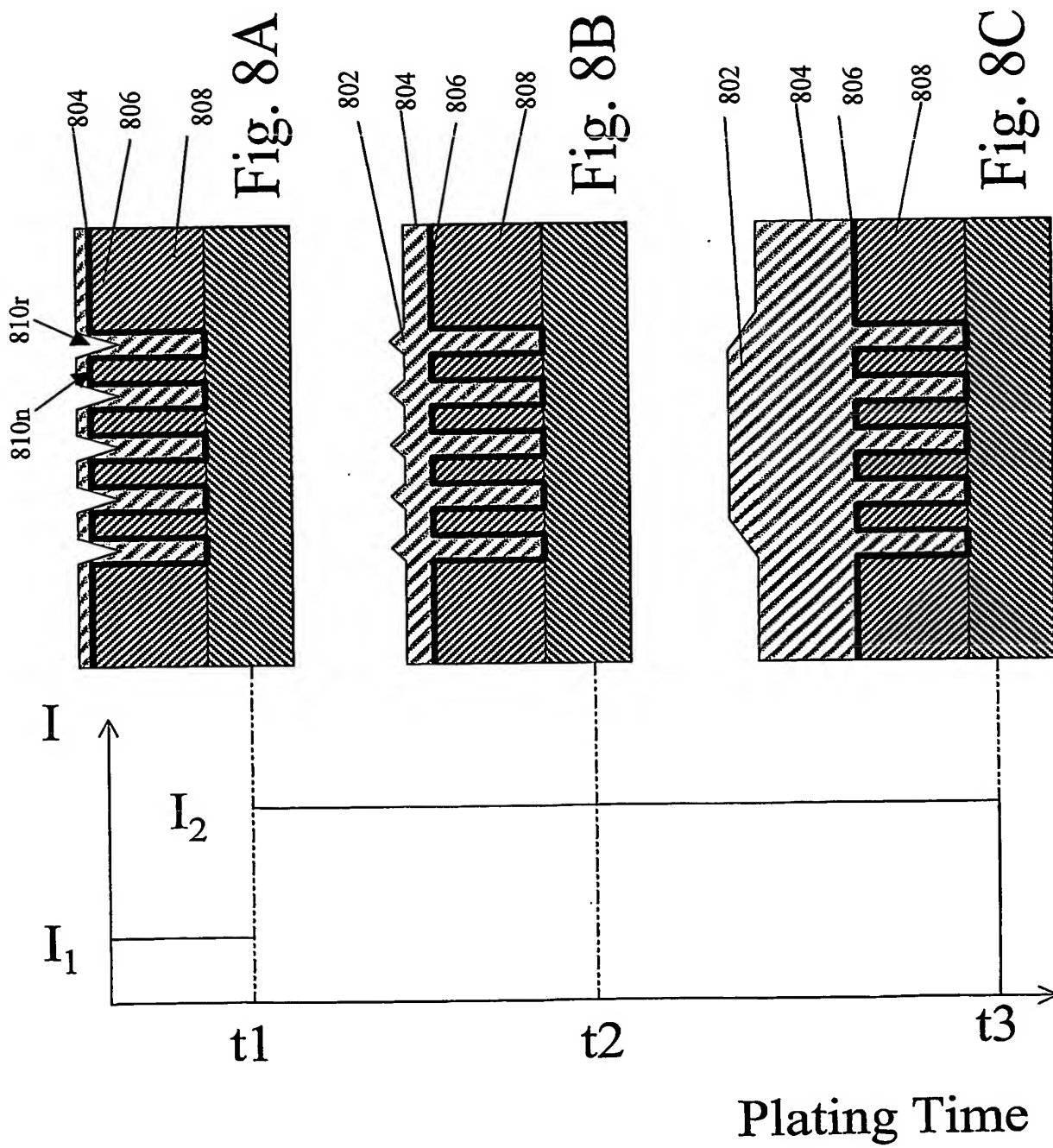


Fig. 4









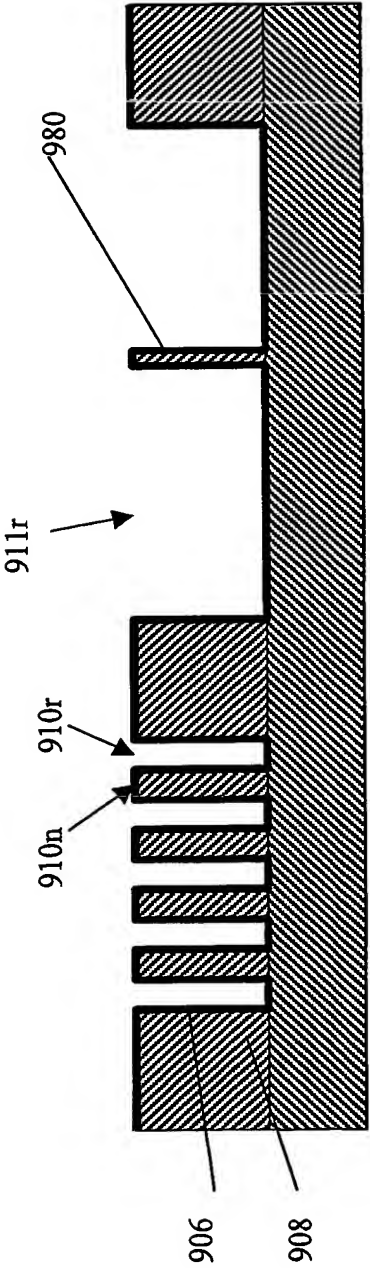
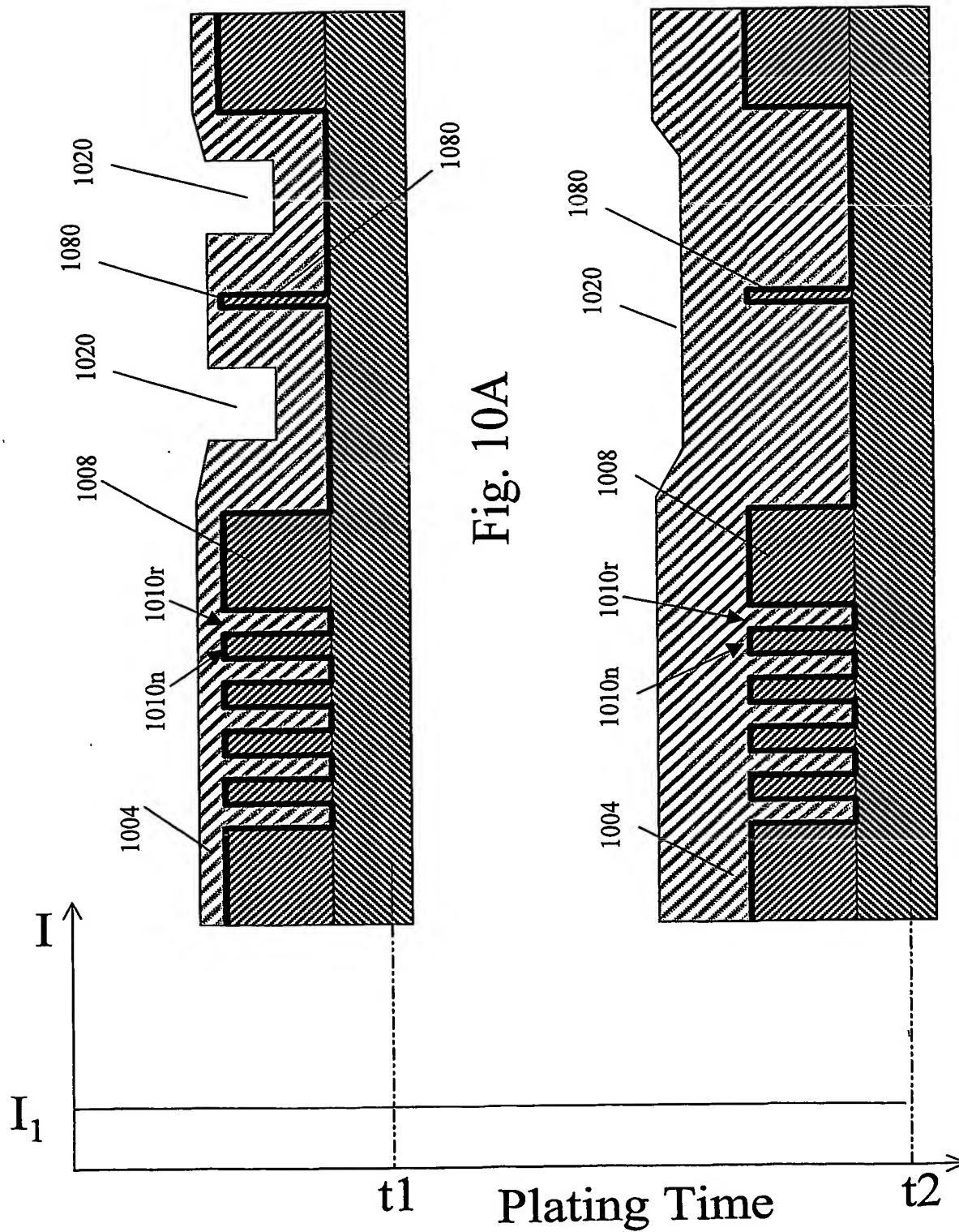
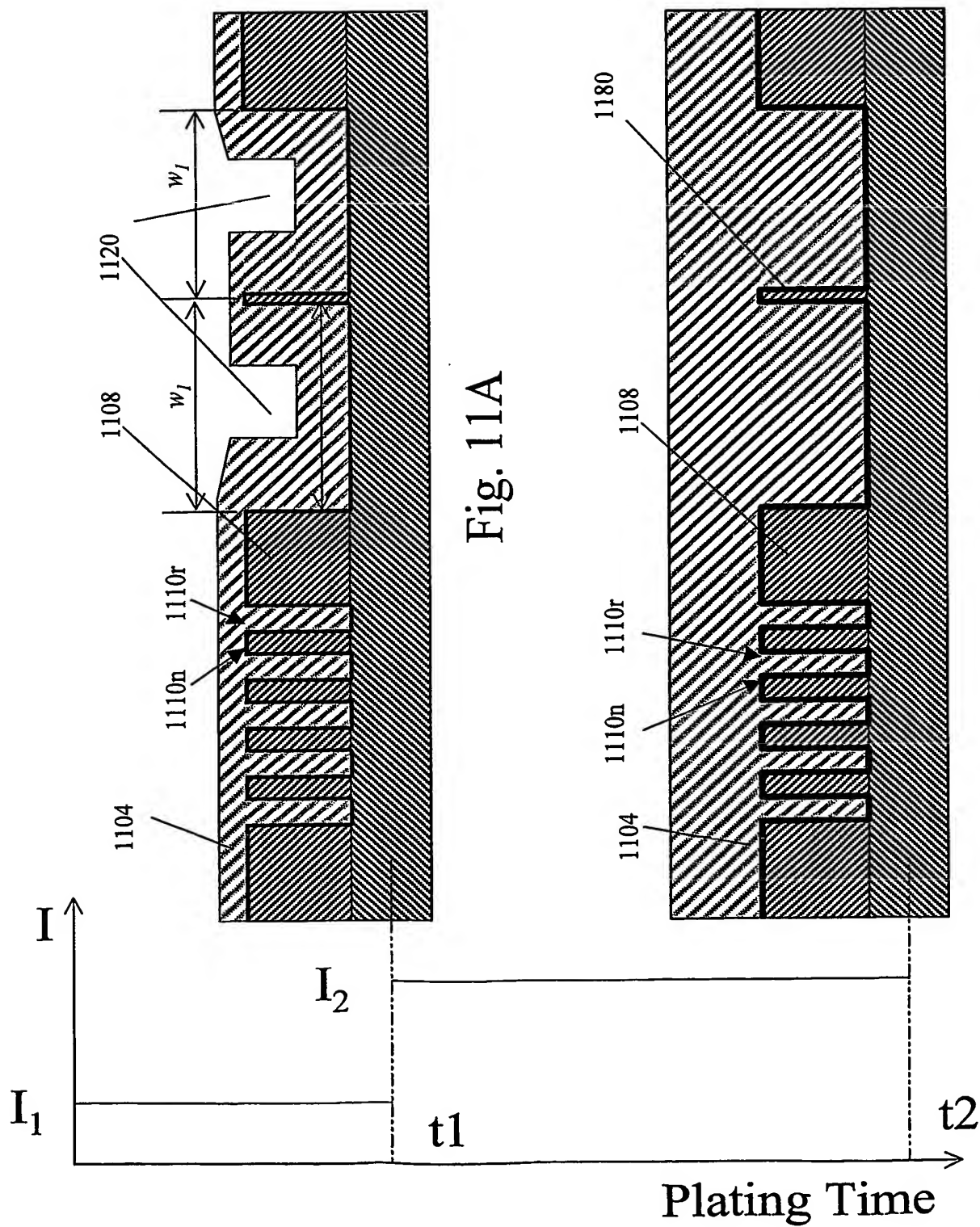
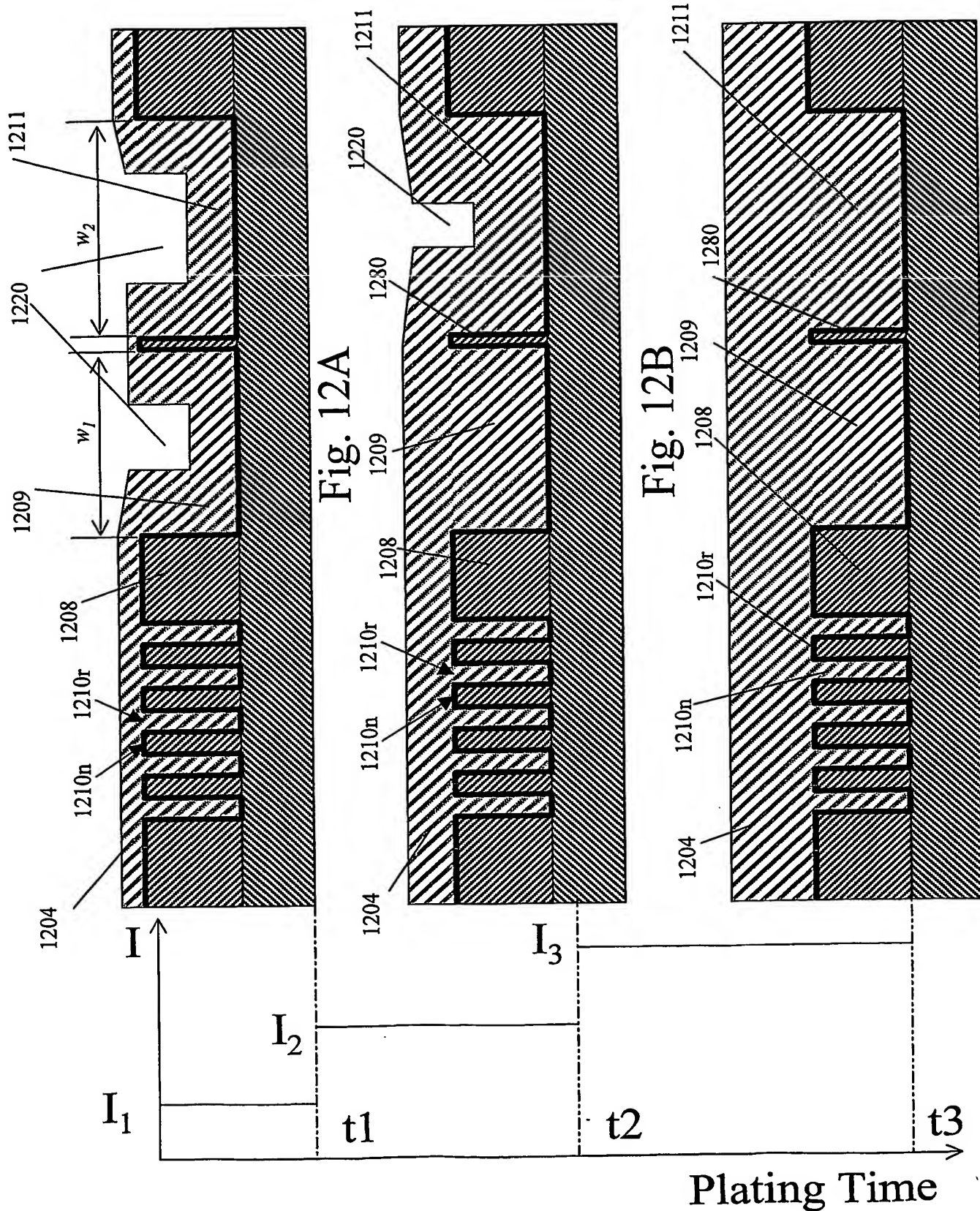


Fig. 9







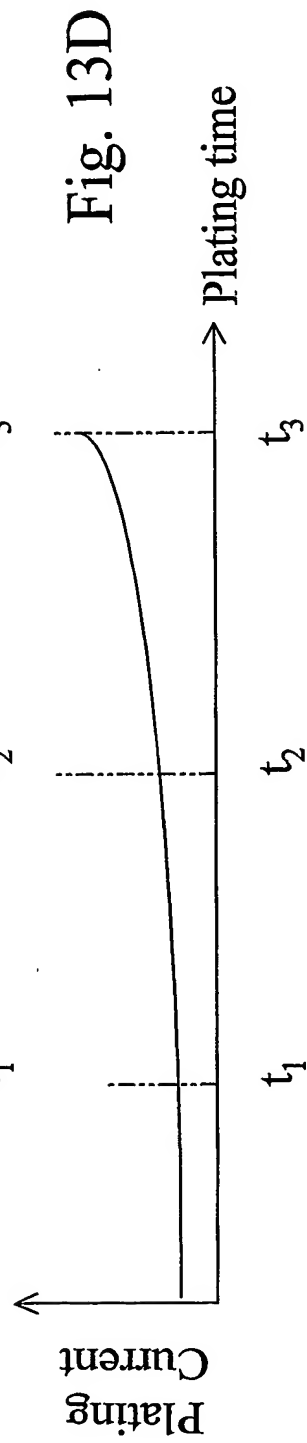
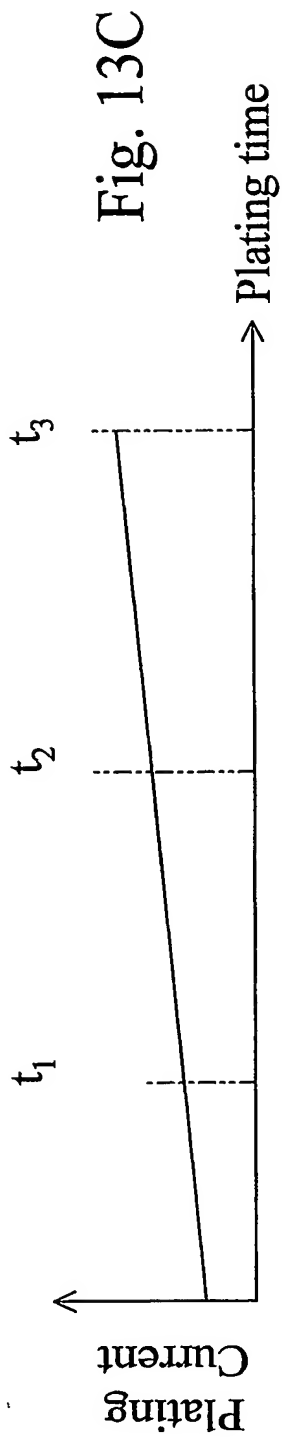
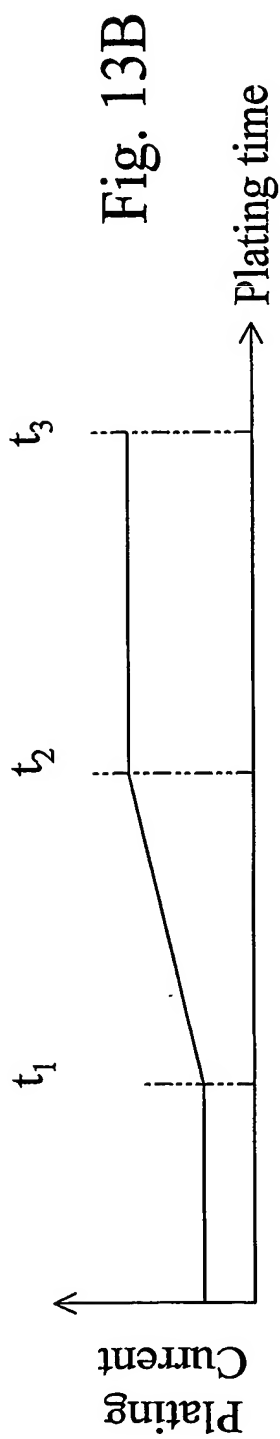
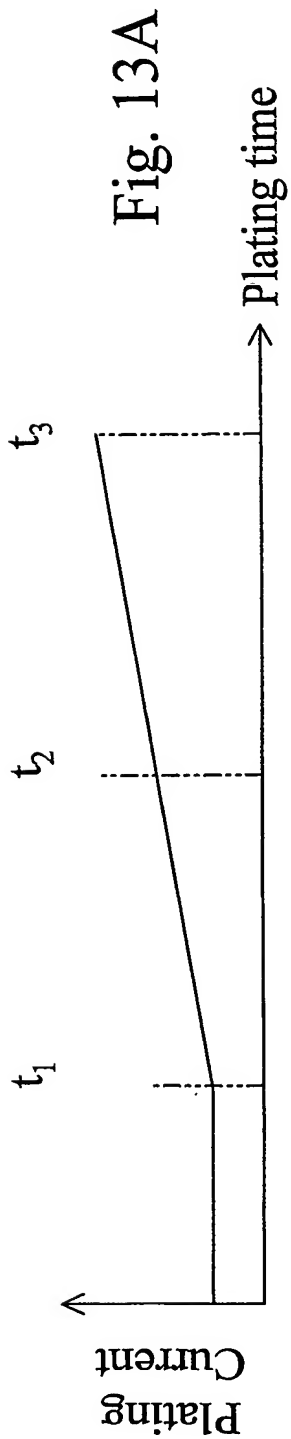


Fig. 13E

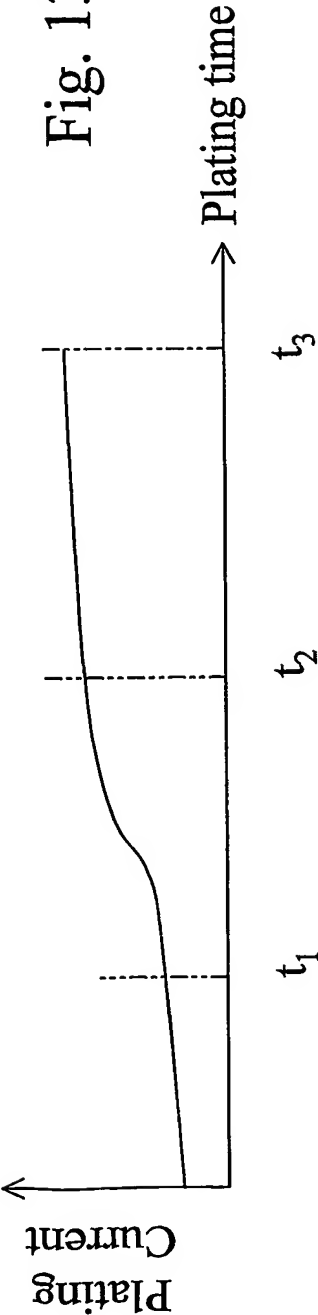


Fig. 13F

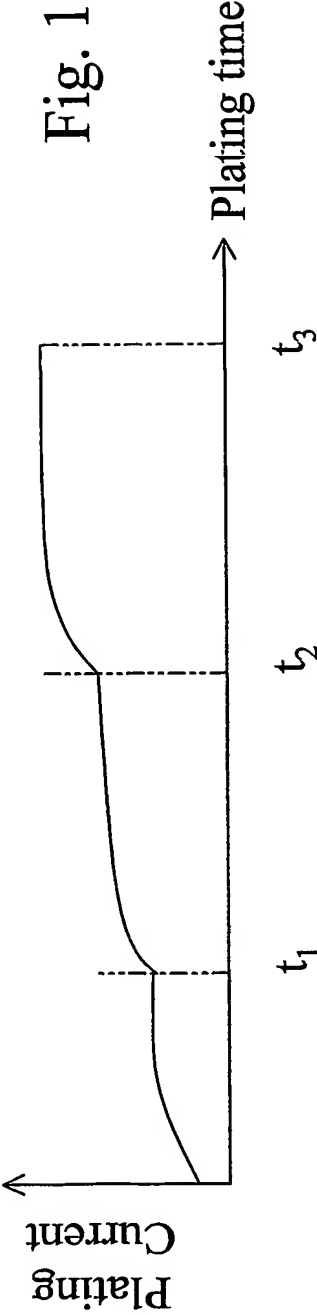


Fig. 13G

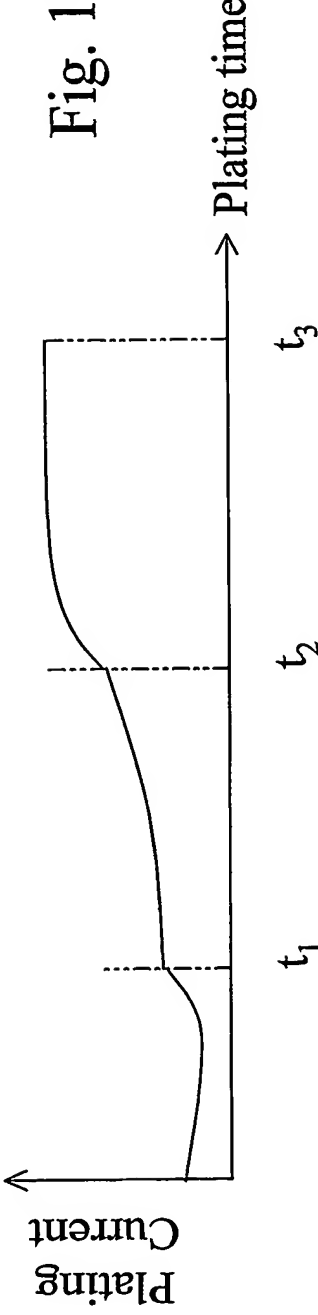
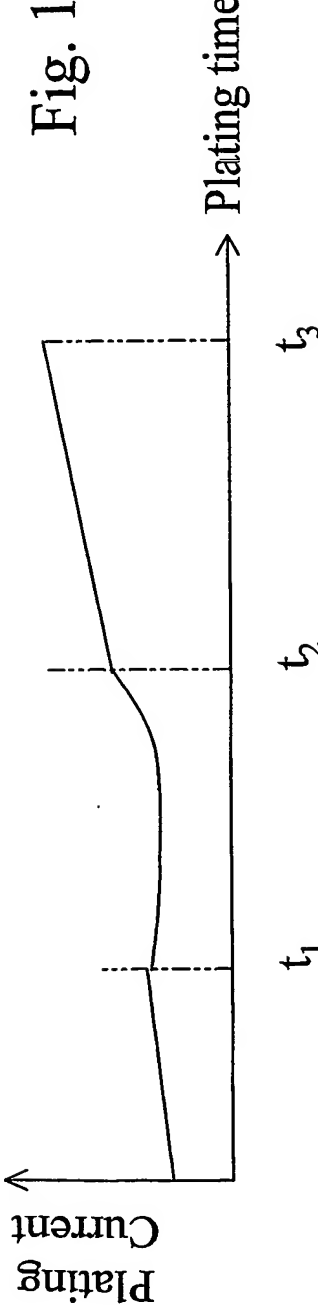


Fig. 13H



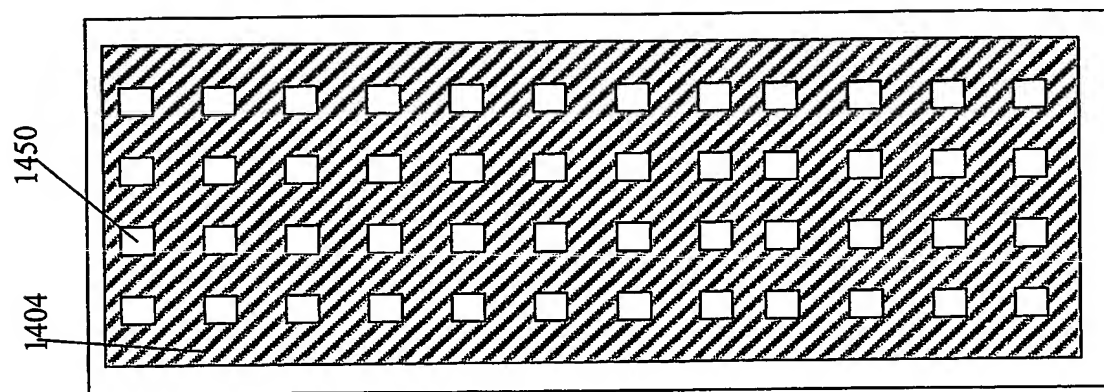


Fig. 14C

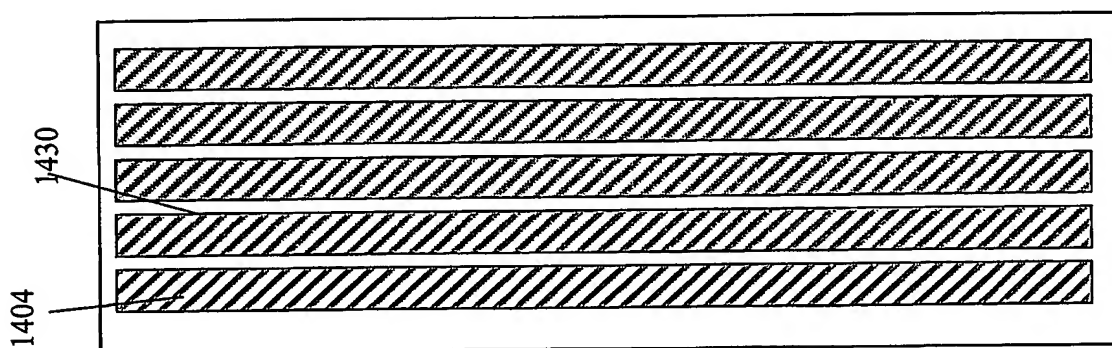


Fig. 14B

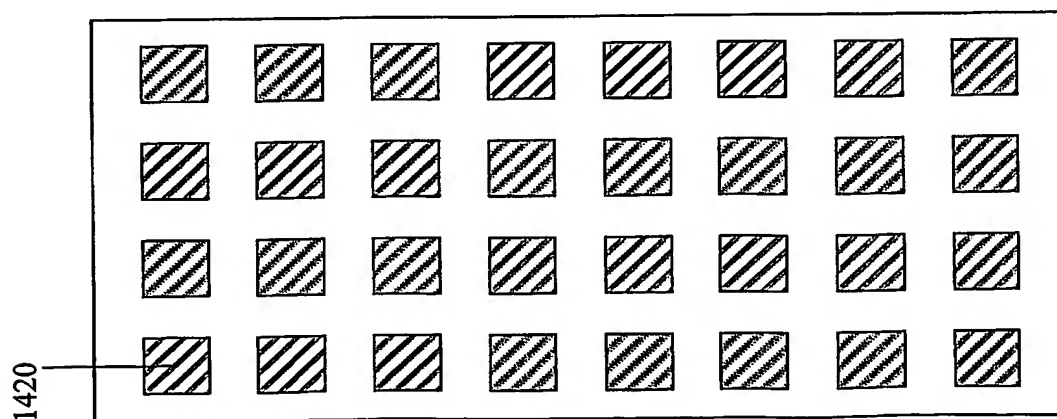


Fig. 14A

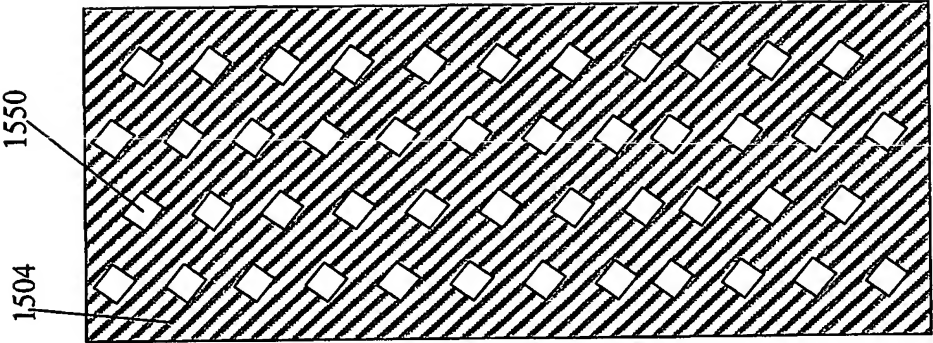


Fig. 15C

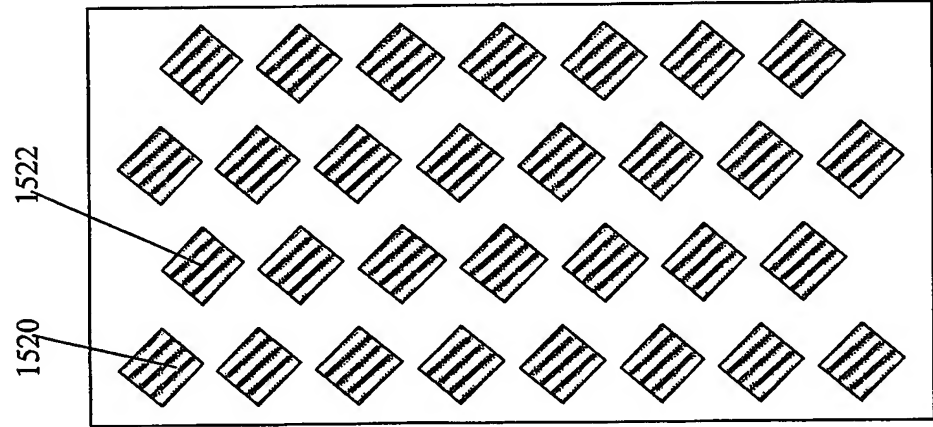


Fig. 15B

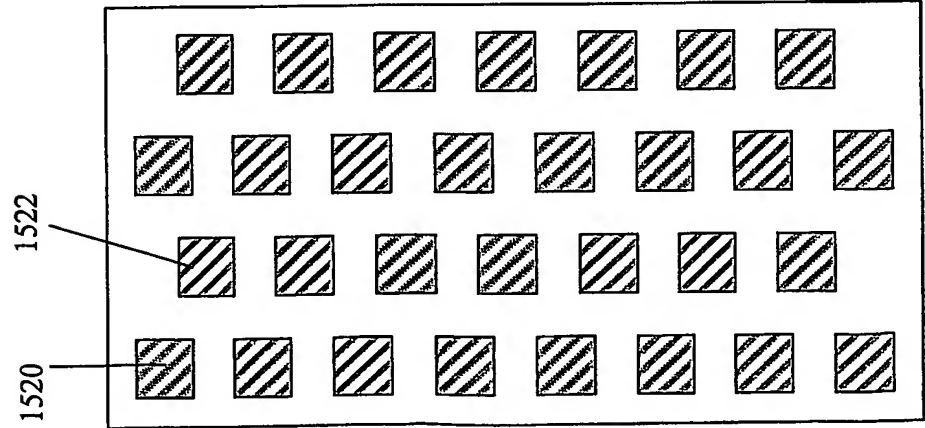


Fig. 15A

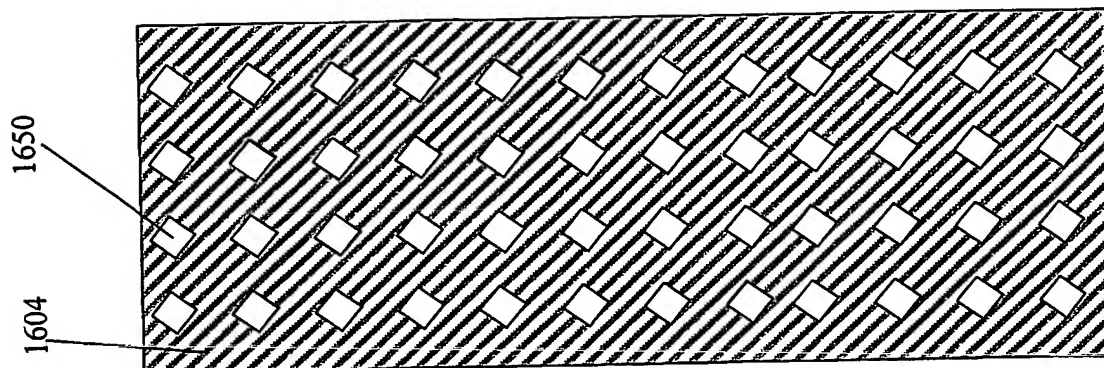


Fig. 16C

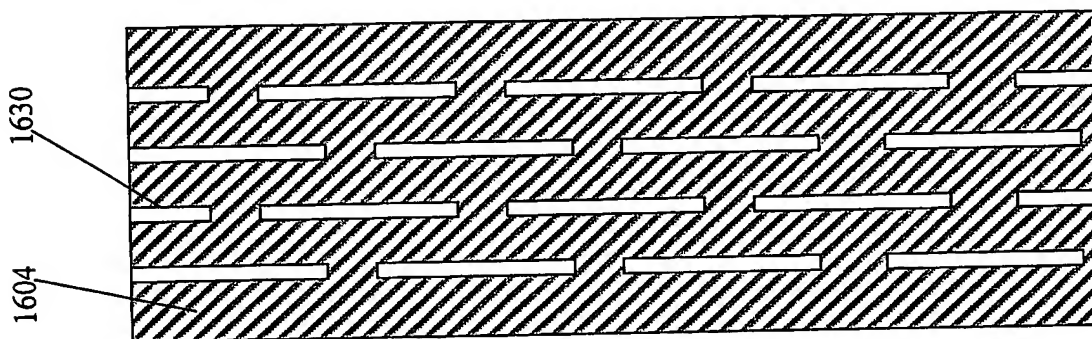


Fig. 16B

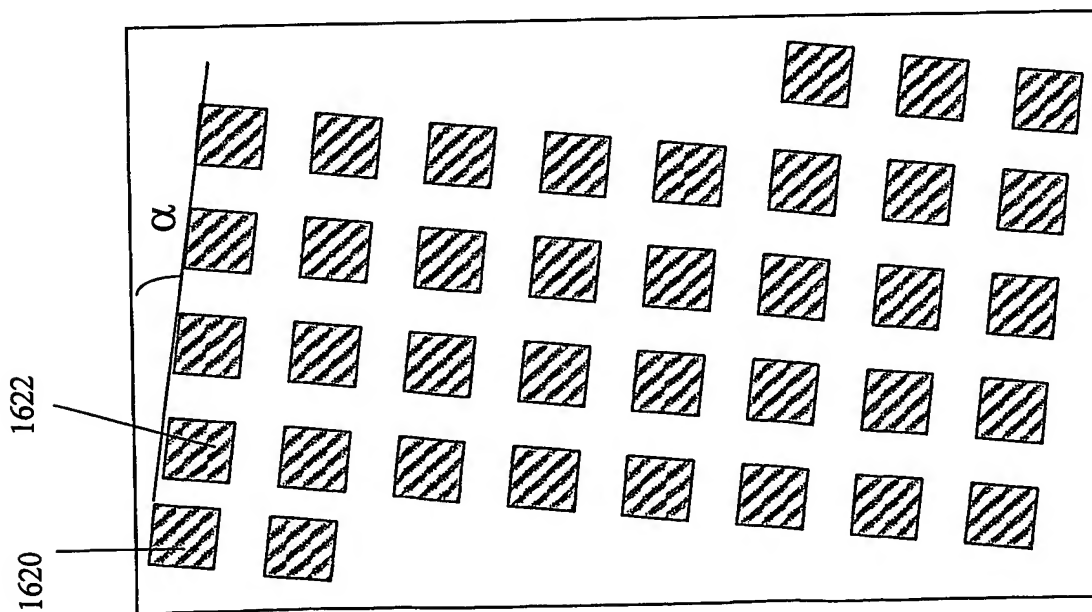


Fig. 16A

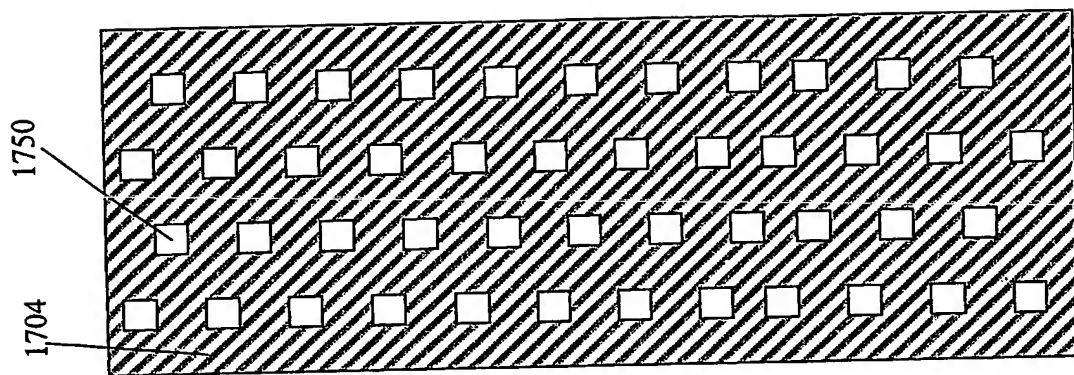


Fig. 17C

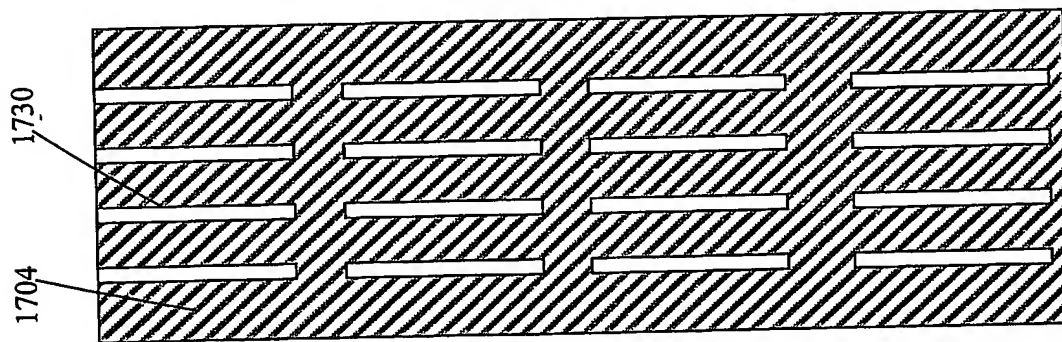


Fig. 17B

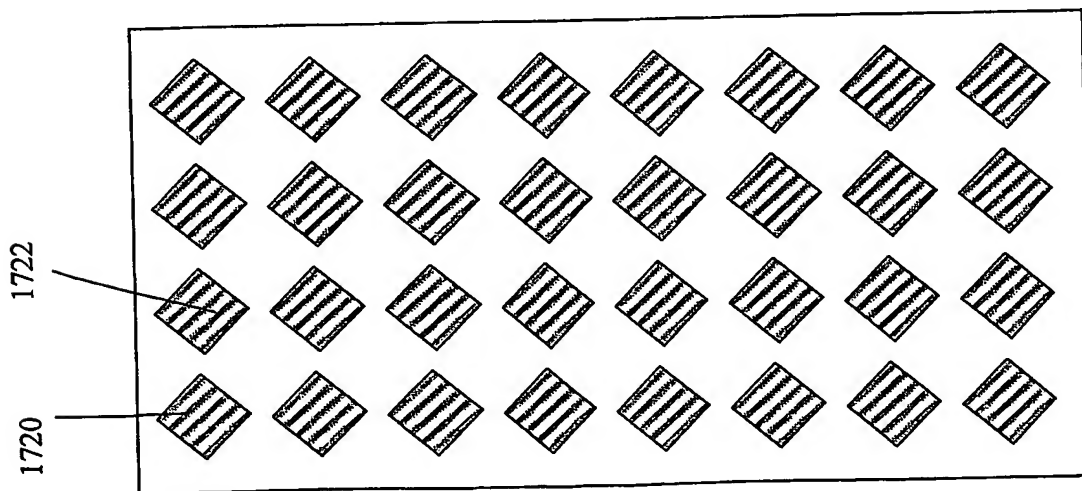


Fig. 17A

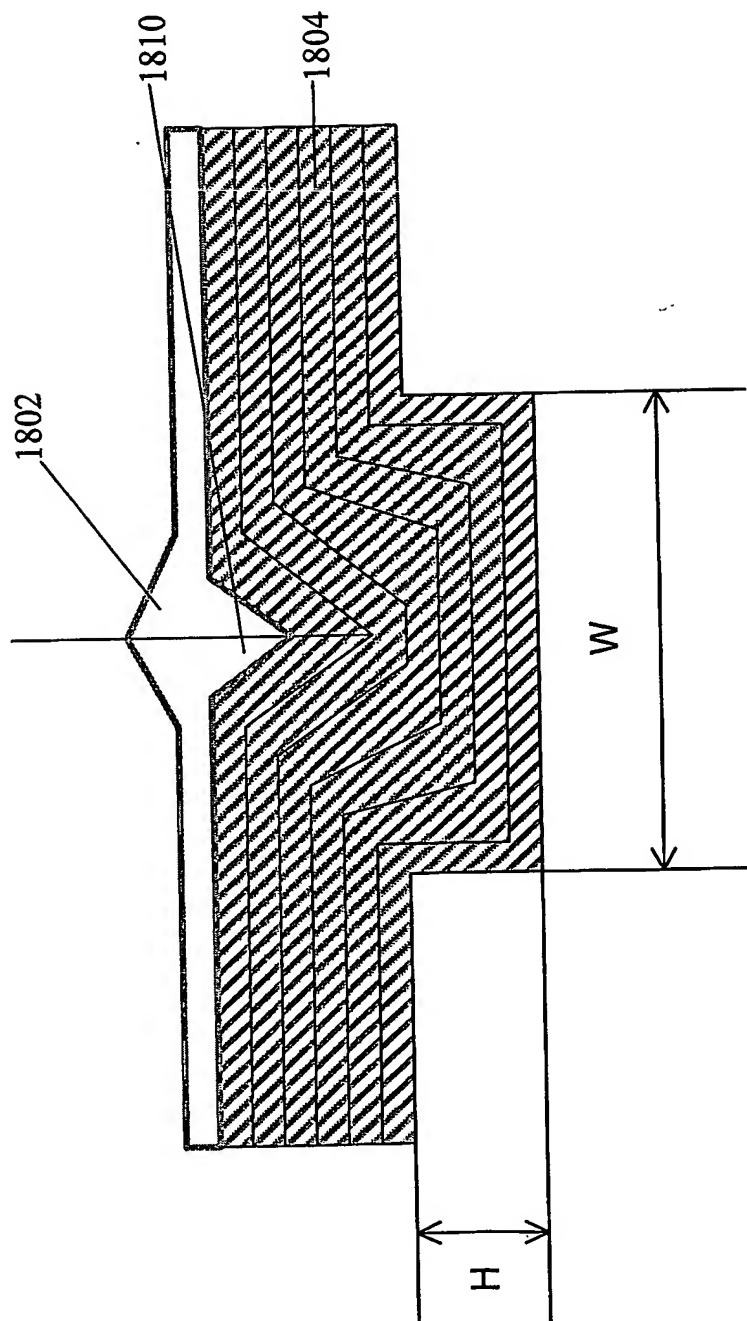


Fig. 18A

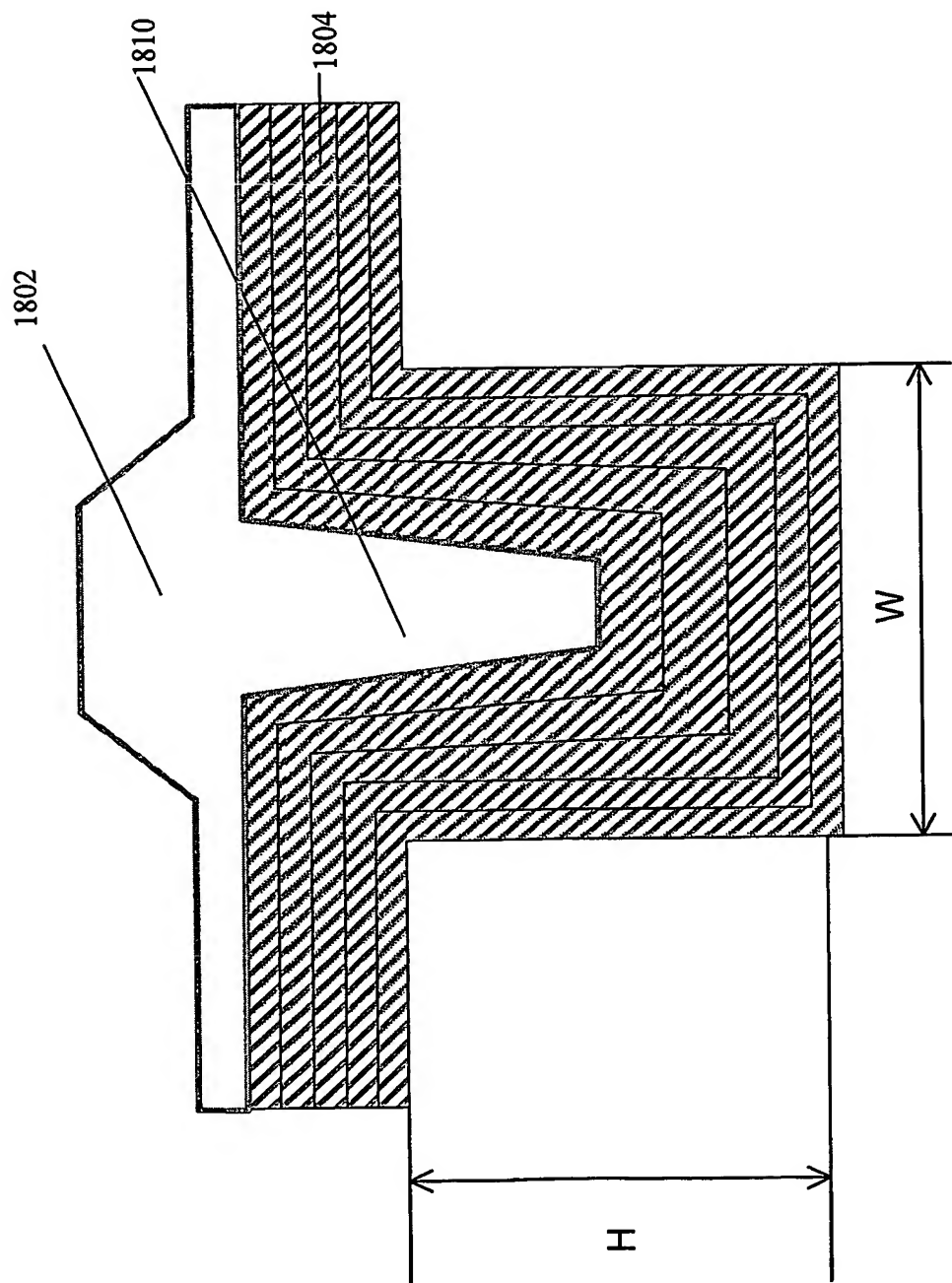


Fig. 18B

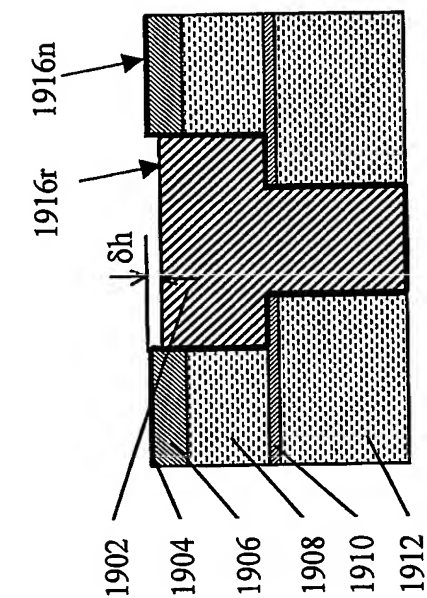


Fig. 19C

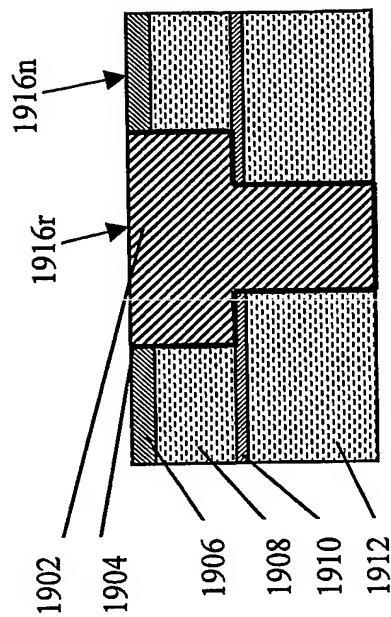


Fig. 19D

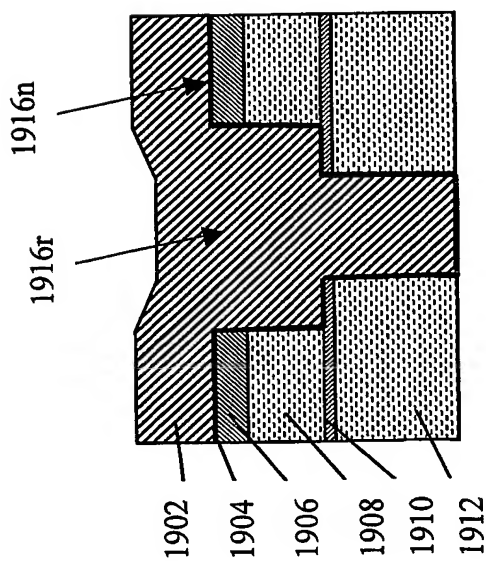


Fig. 19A

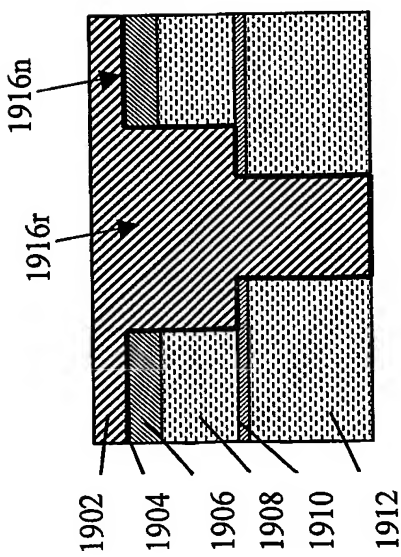


Fig. 19B

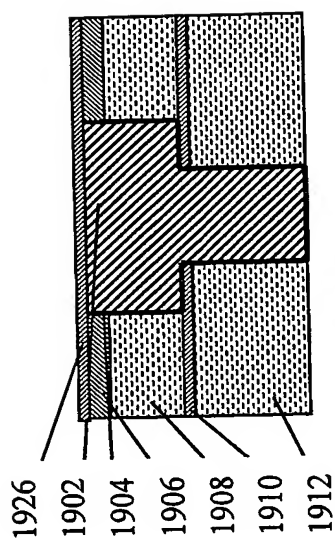


Fig. 19E

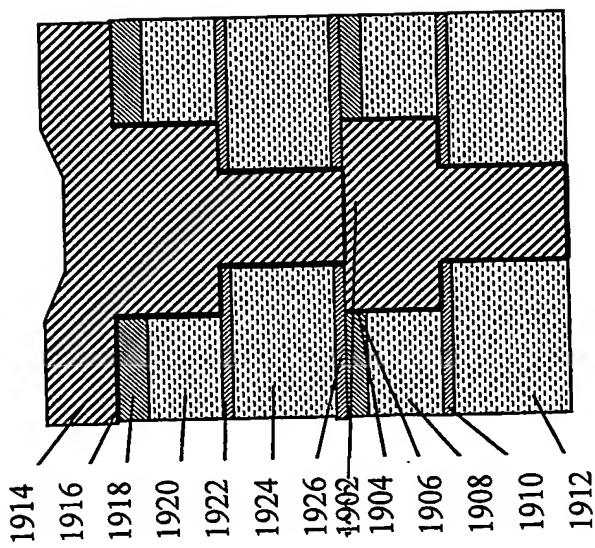


Fig. 19F

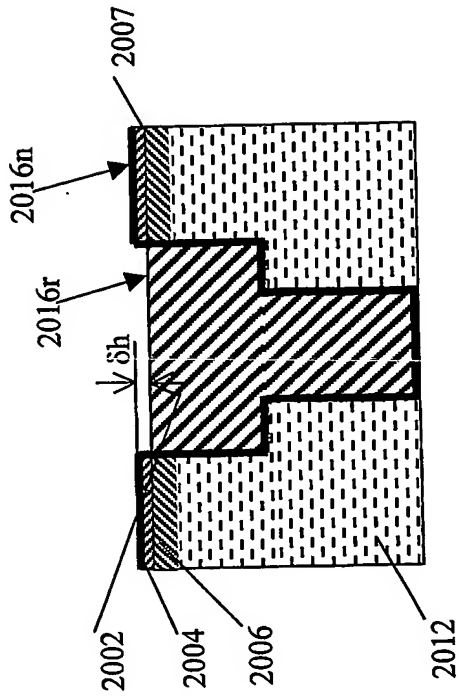


Fig. 20C

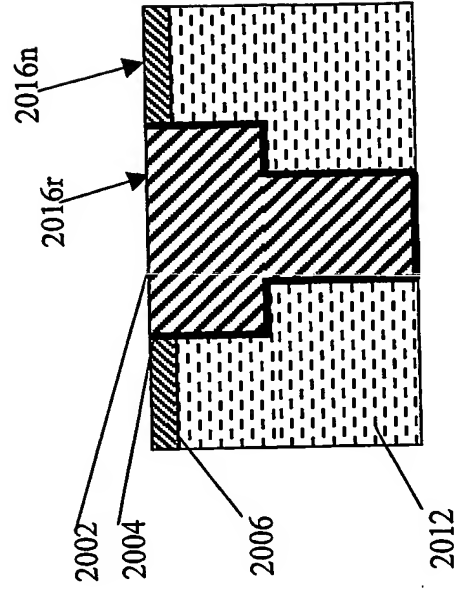


Fig. 20D

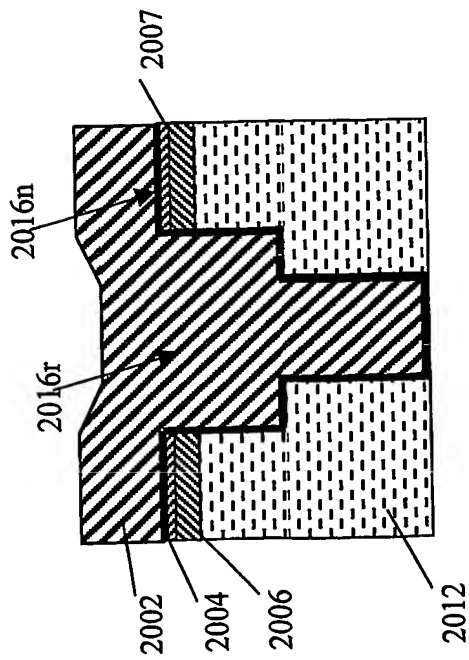


Fig. 20A

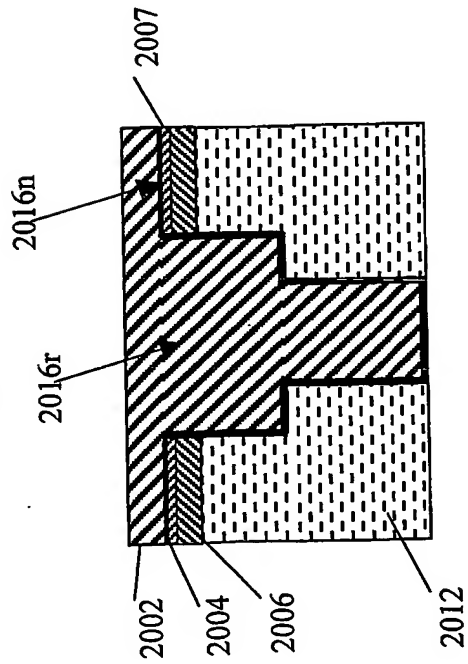
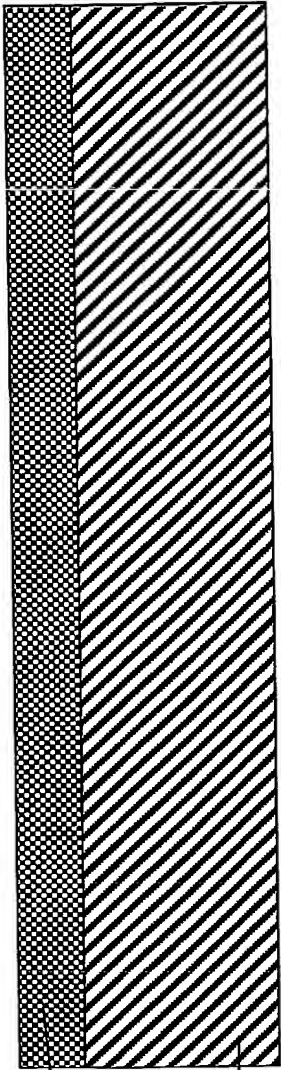


Fig. 20B

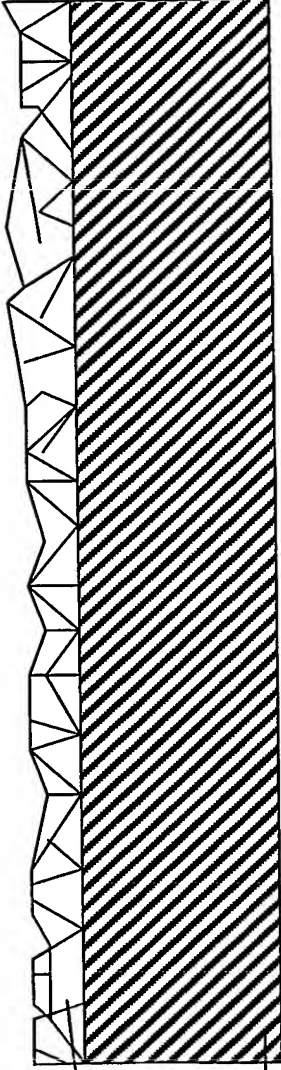
Fig. 21A



2102

2100

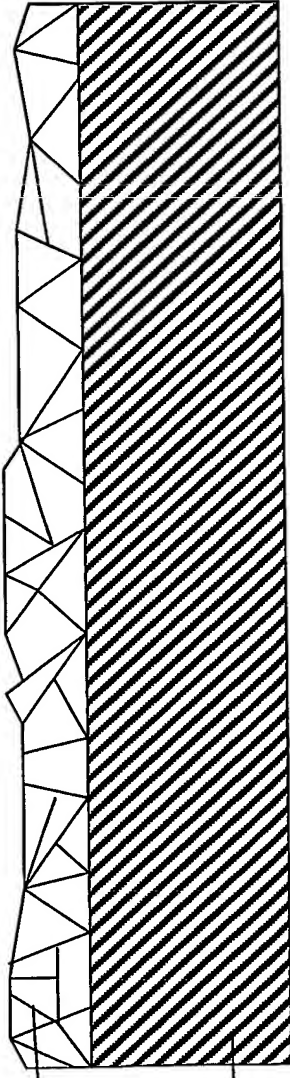
Fig. 21B



2104

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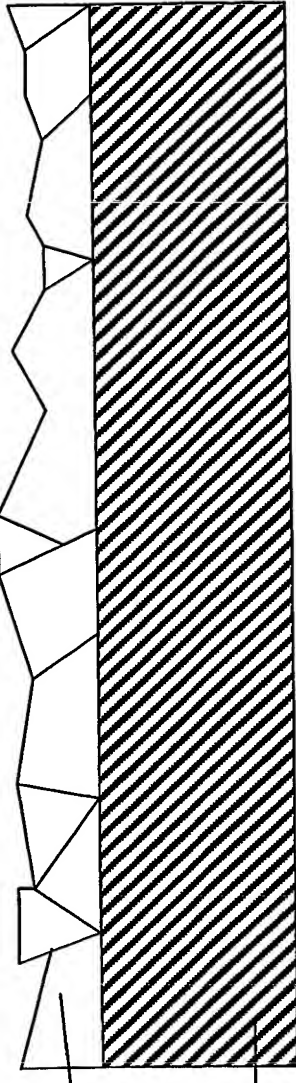
Fig. 21C



2106

2100

Fig. 21D



2108

2100

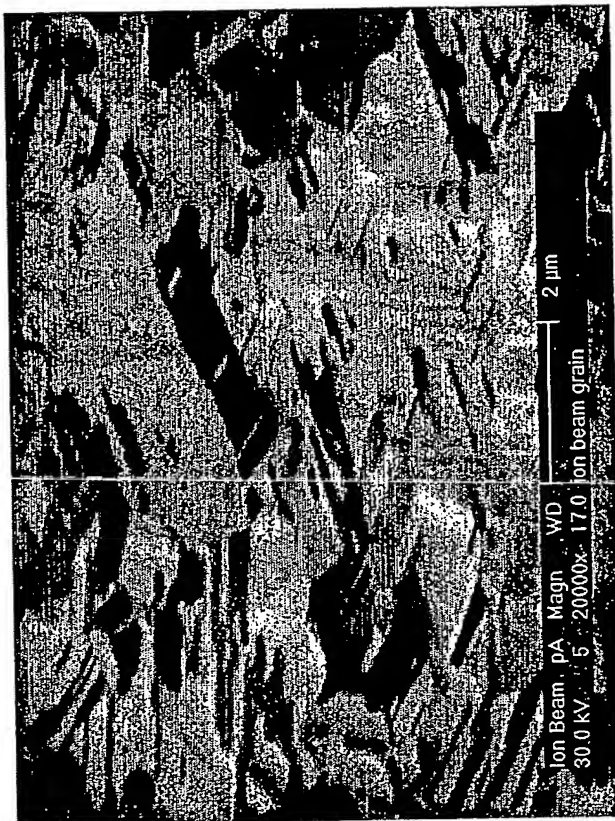


Fig. 22B



Fig. 22A

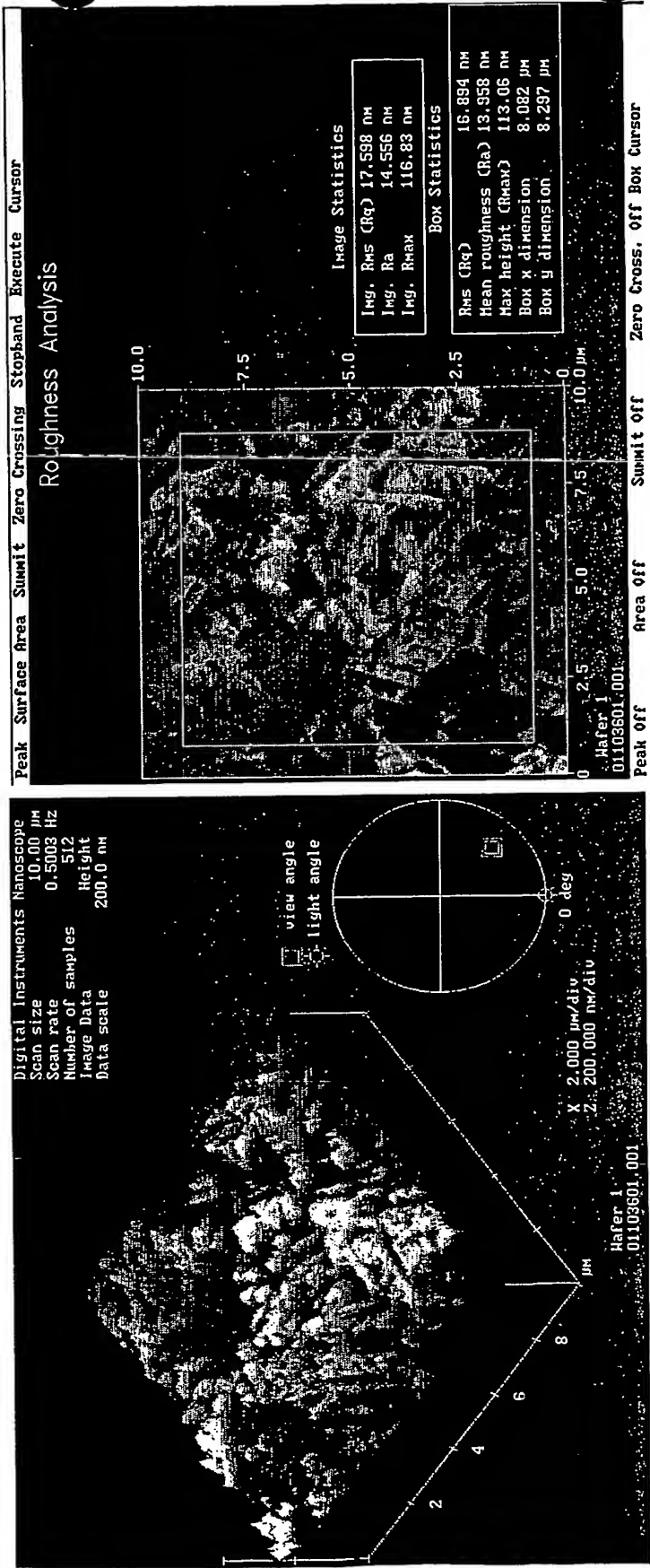


Fig. 22C

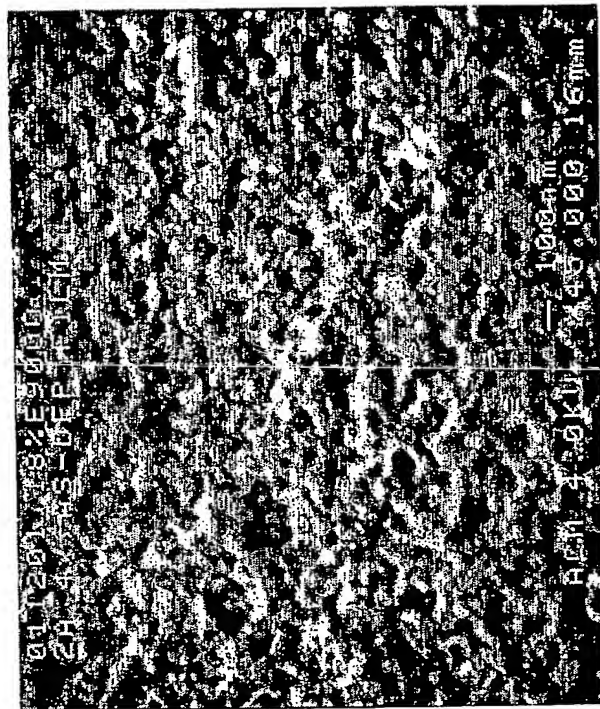


Fig. 23B

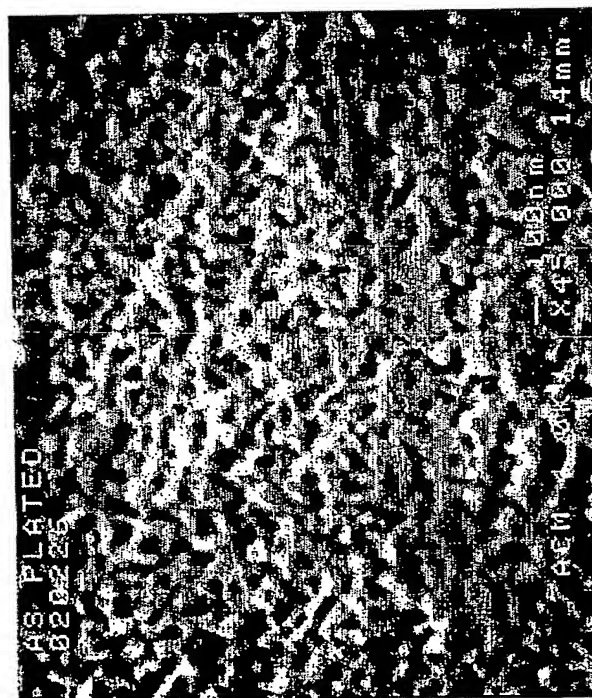


Fig. 23A

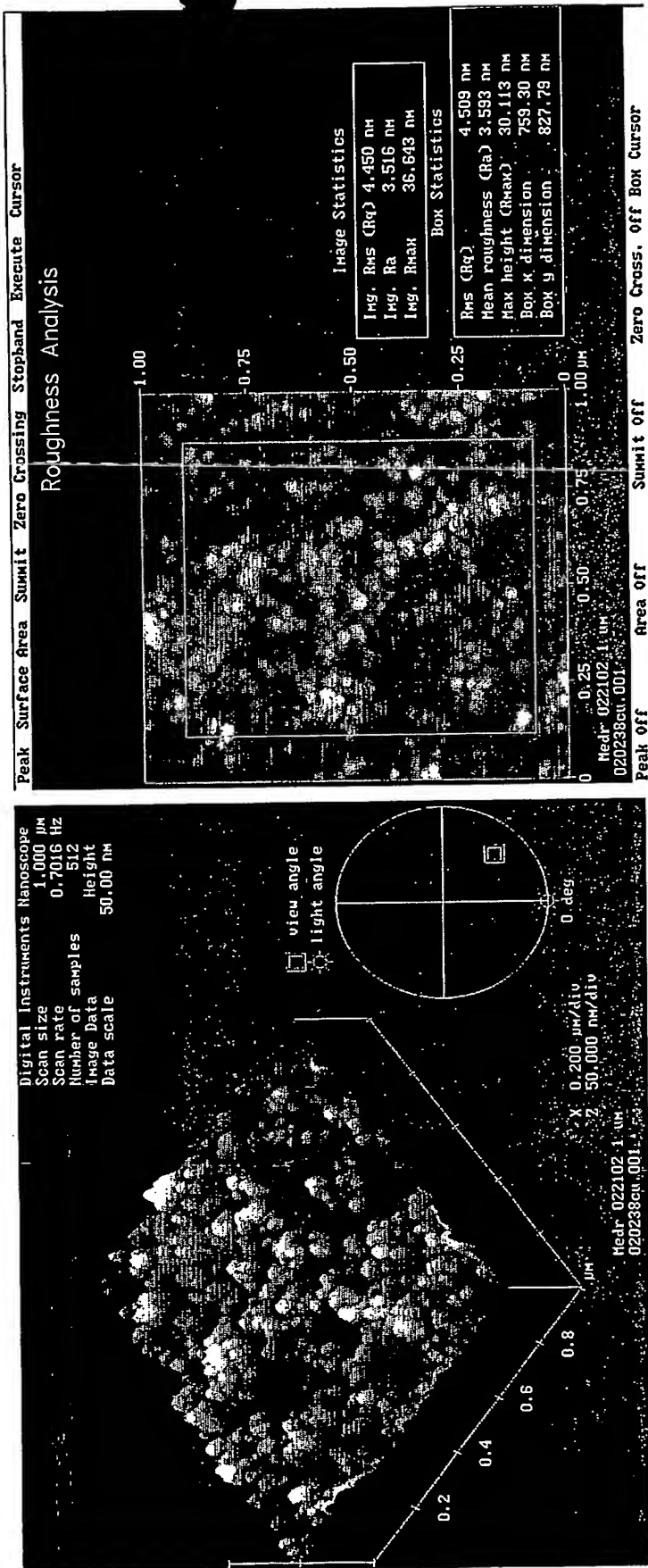


Fig. 23C

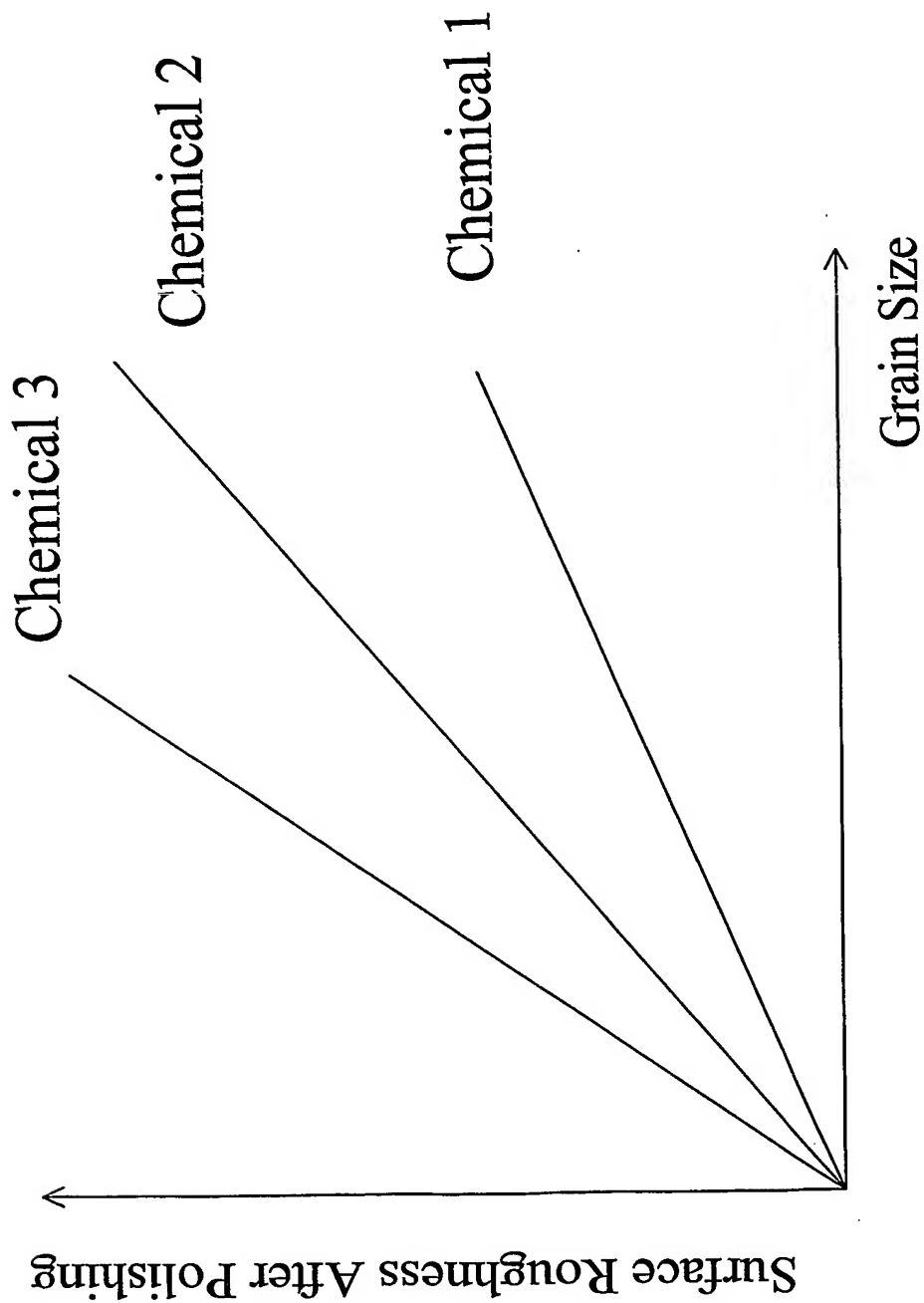


Fig. 24

Fig. 25A

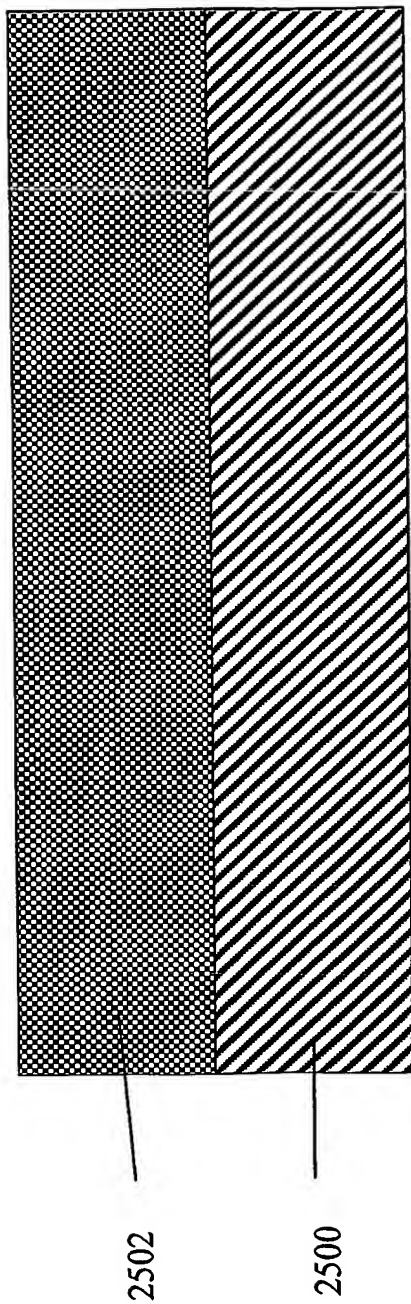


Fig. 25B

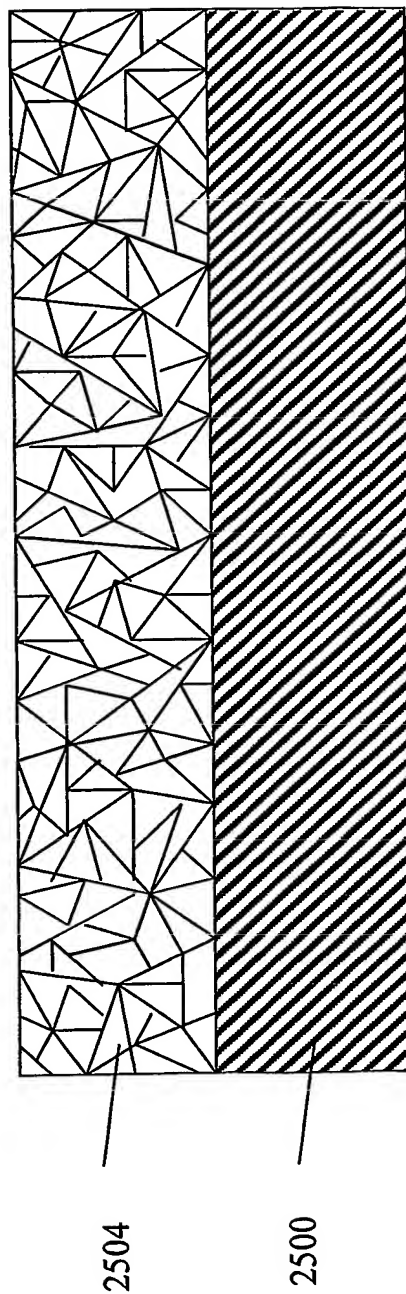


Fig. 25C

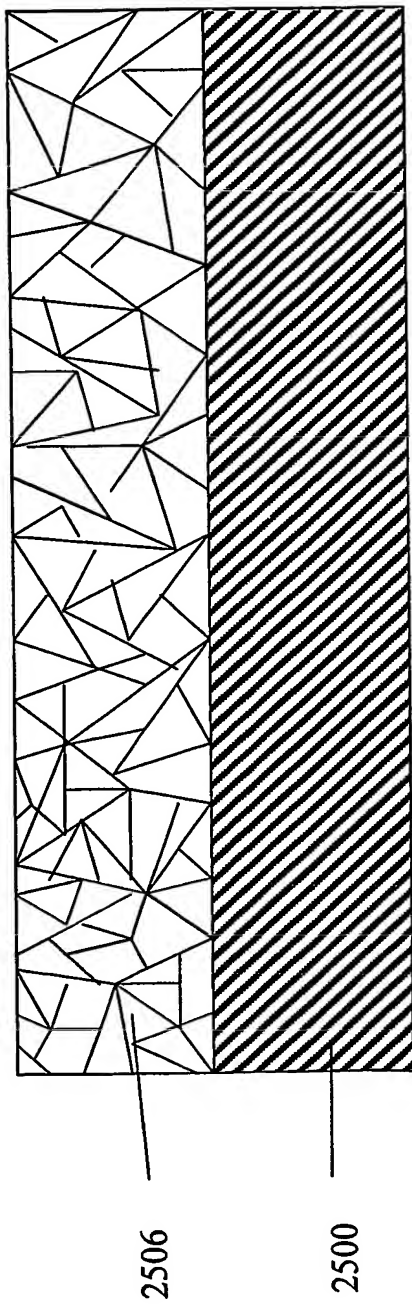
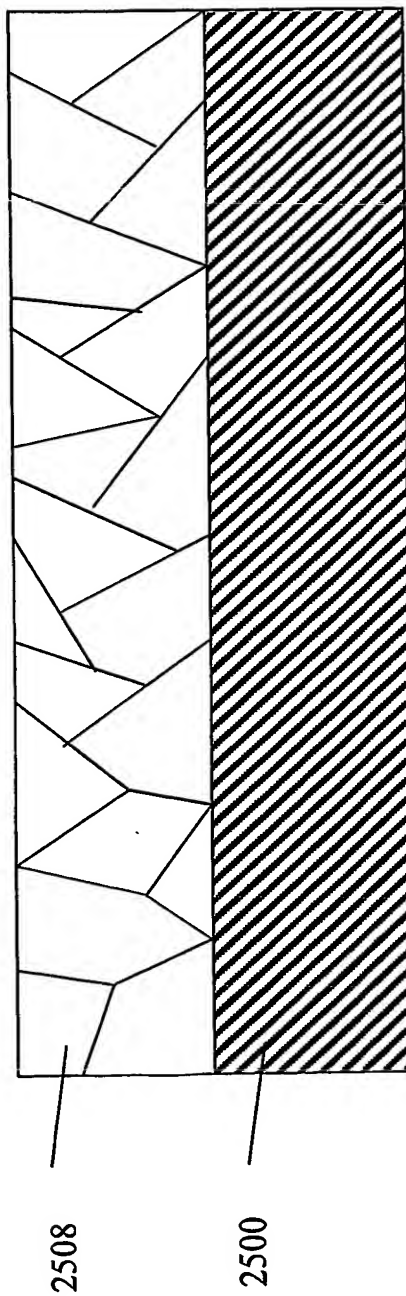


Fig. 25D



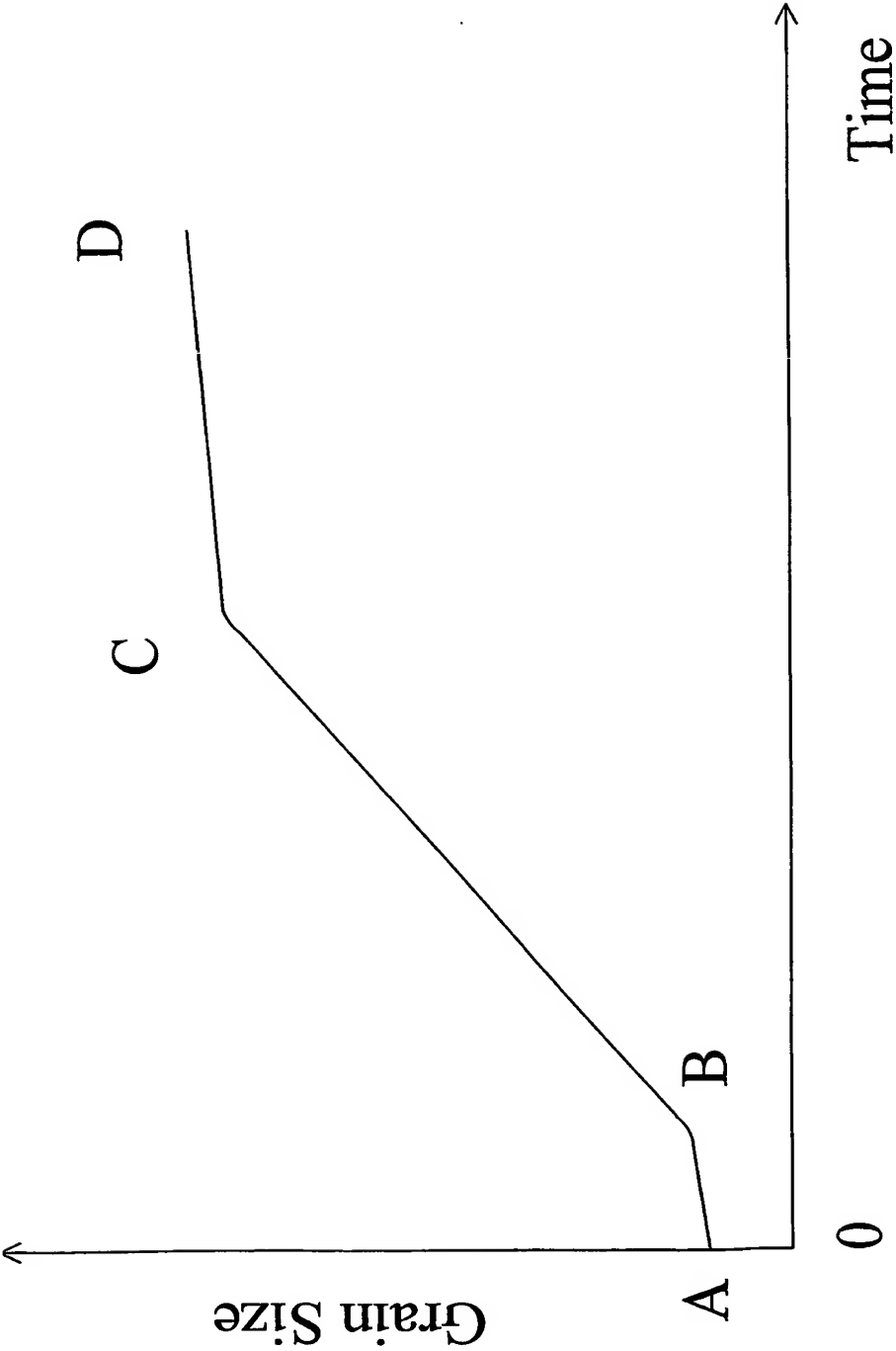


Fig. 26

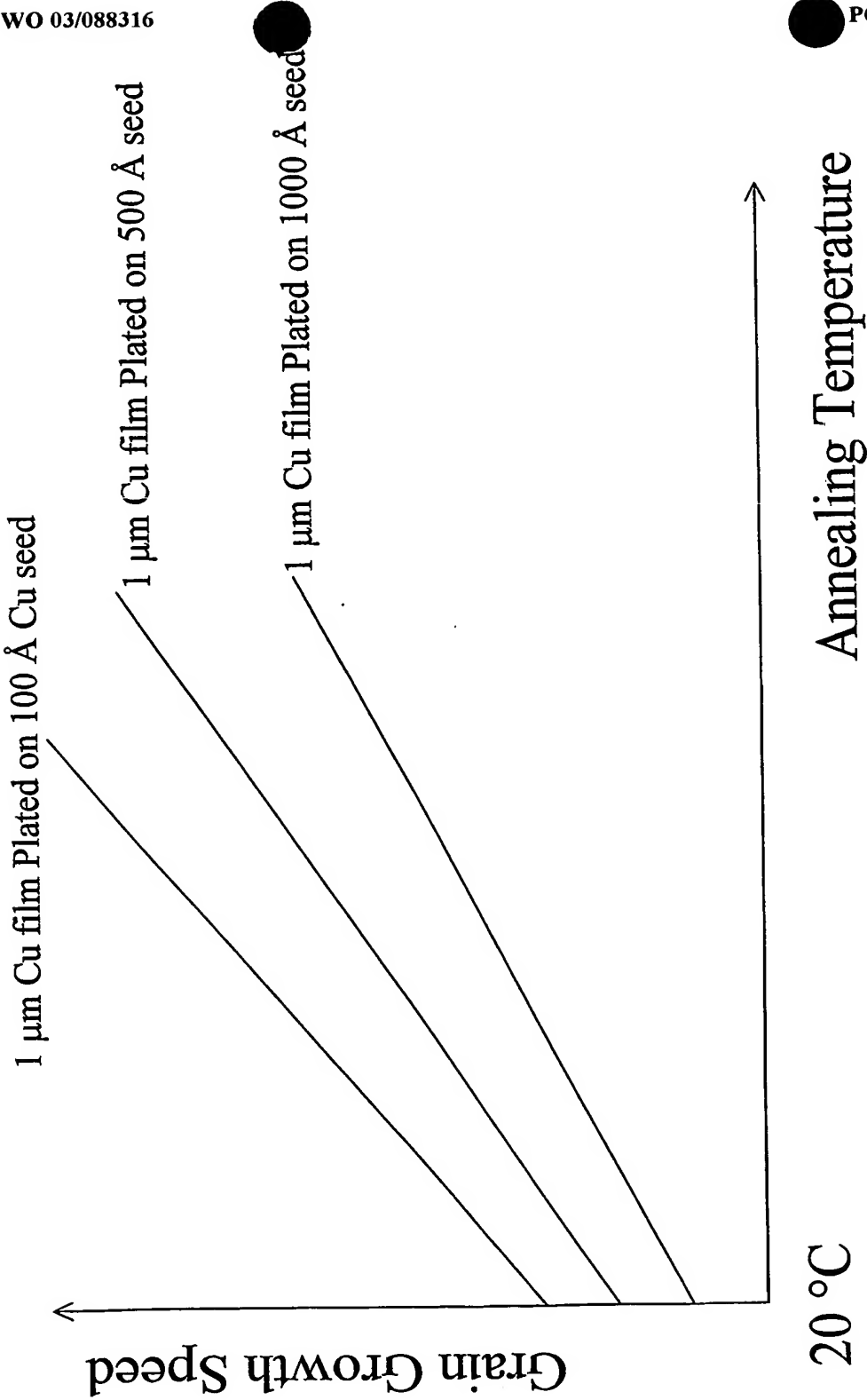


Fig. 27

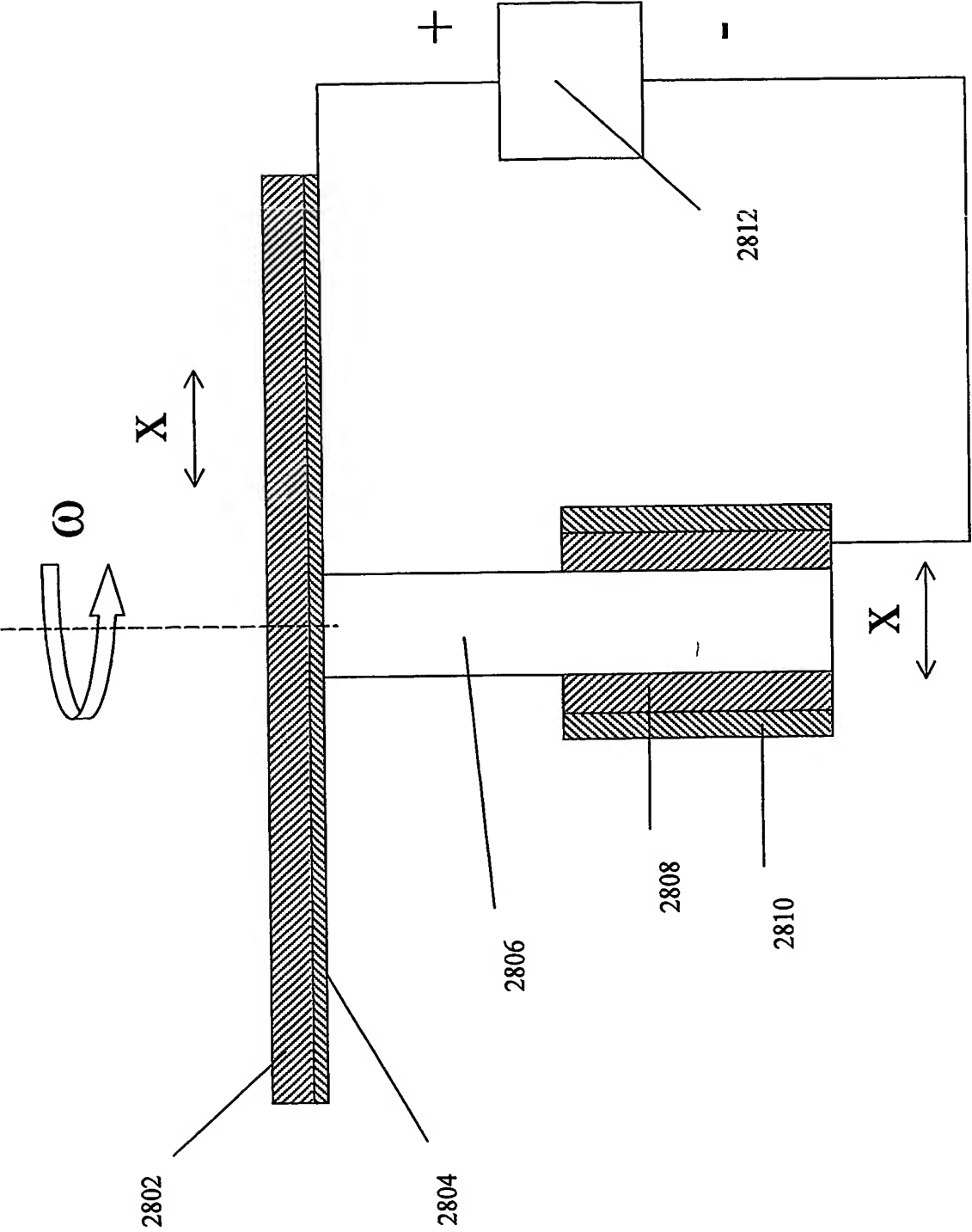


Fig. 28A

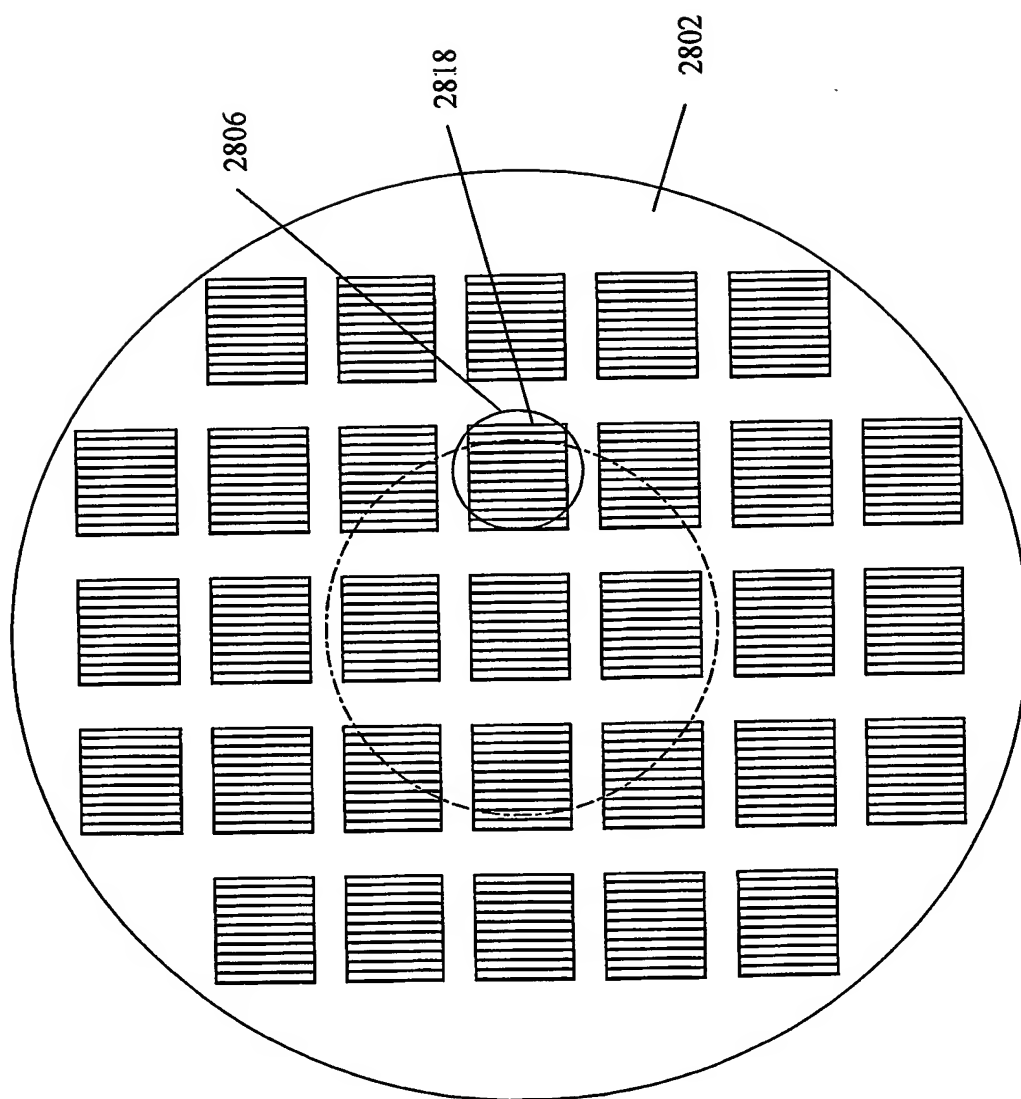


Fig. 28B

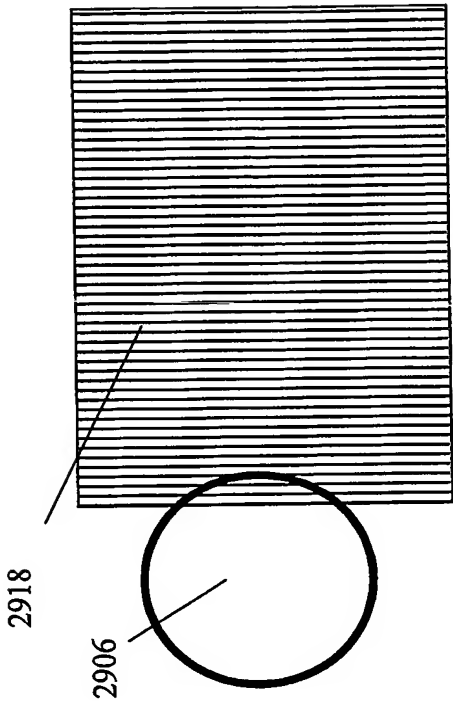


Fig. 29A

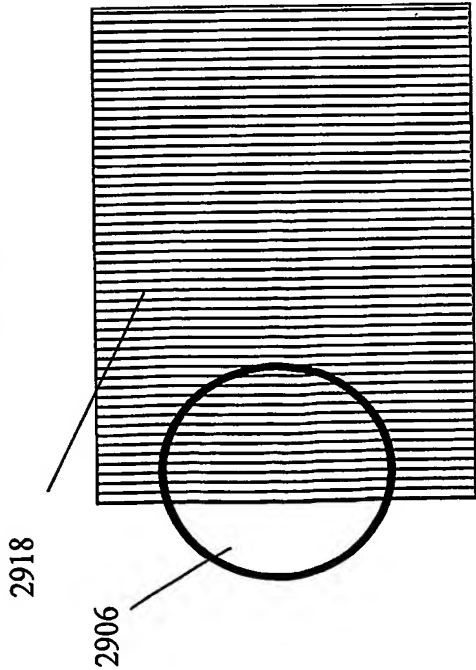


Fig. 29B

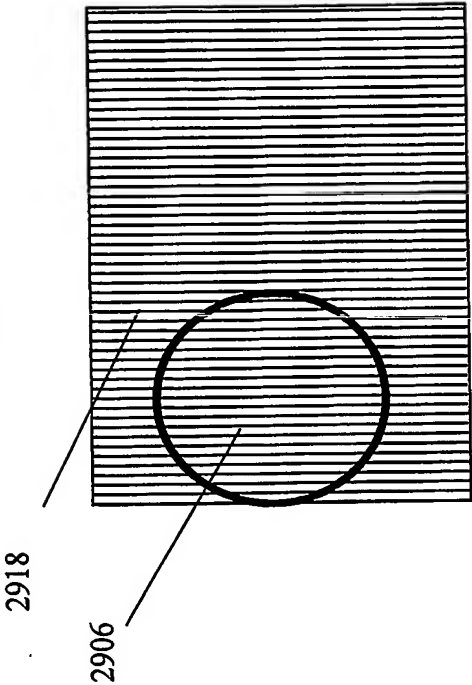
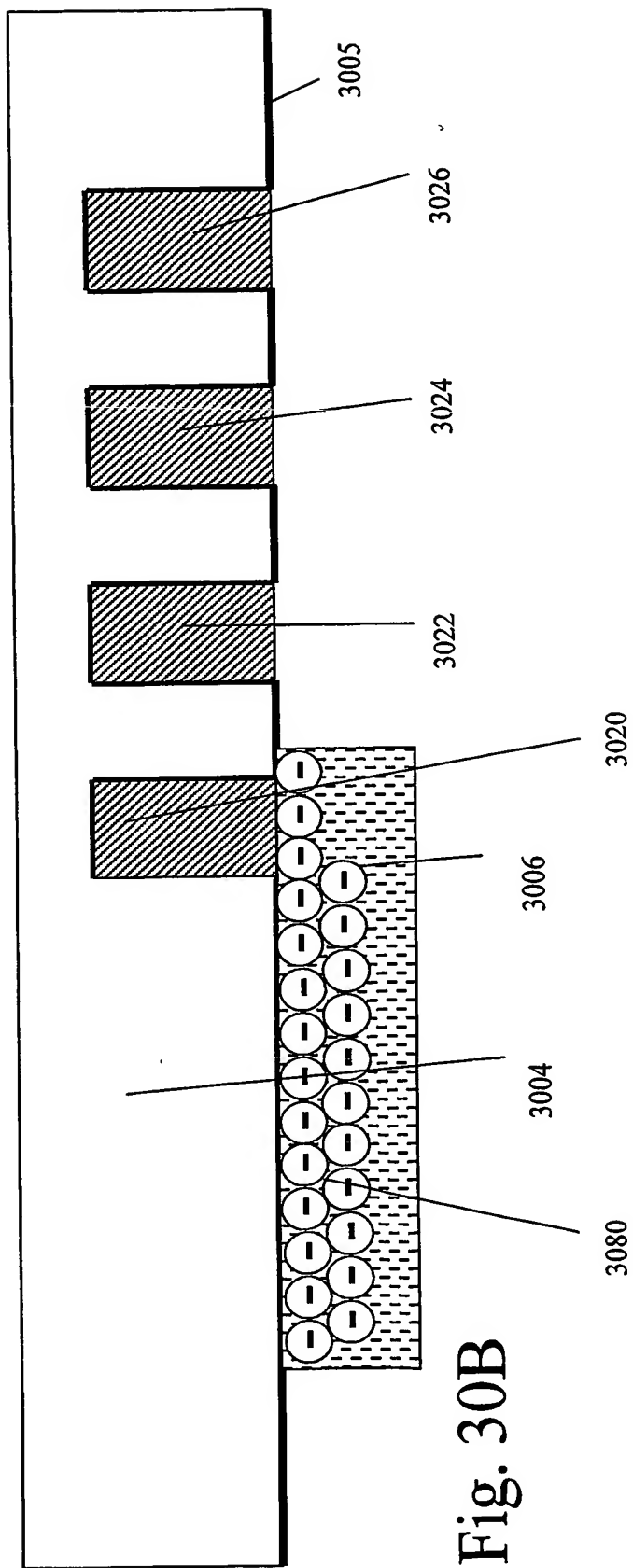
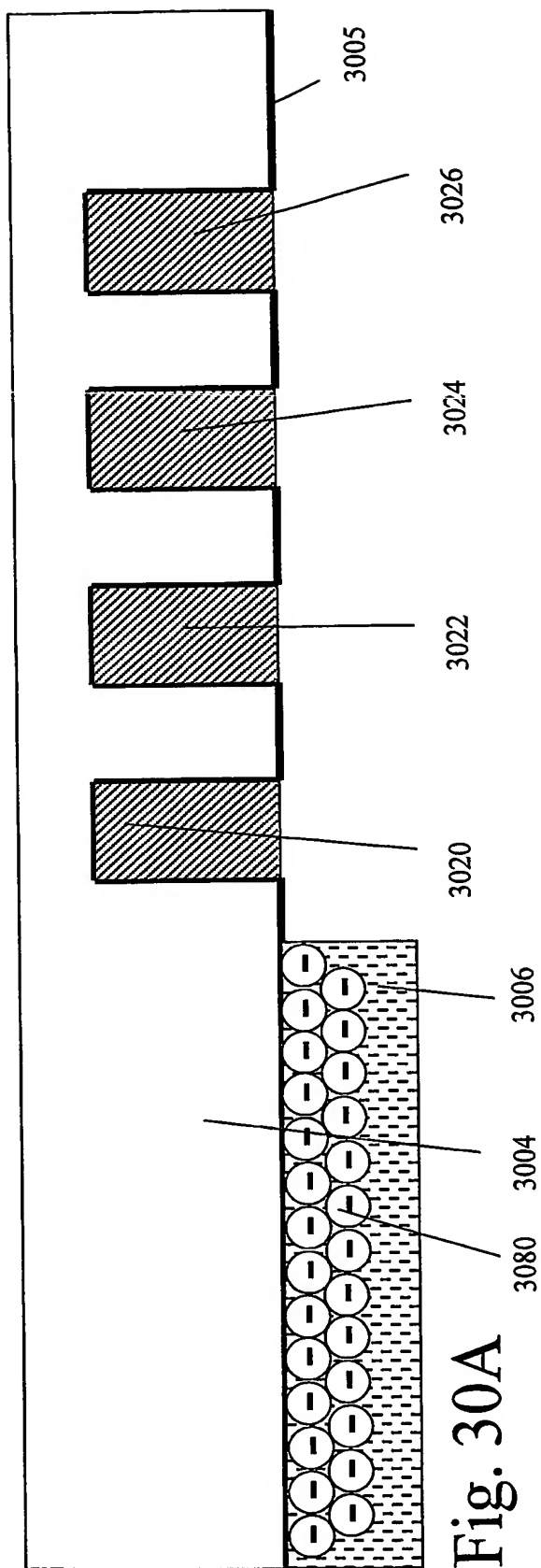
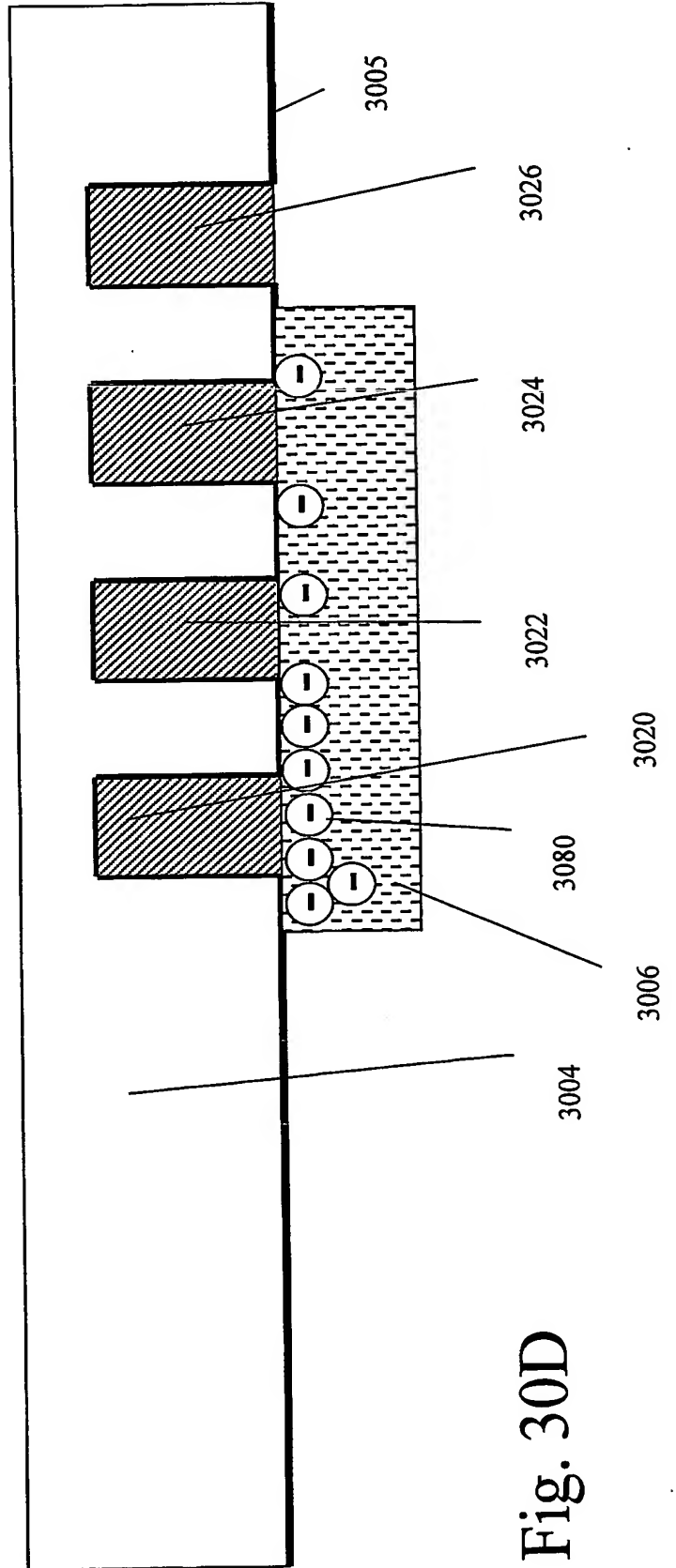
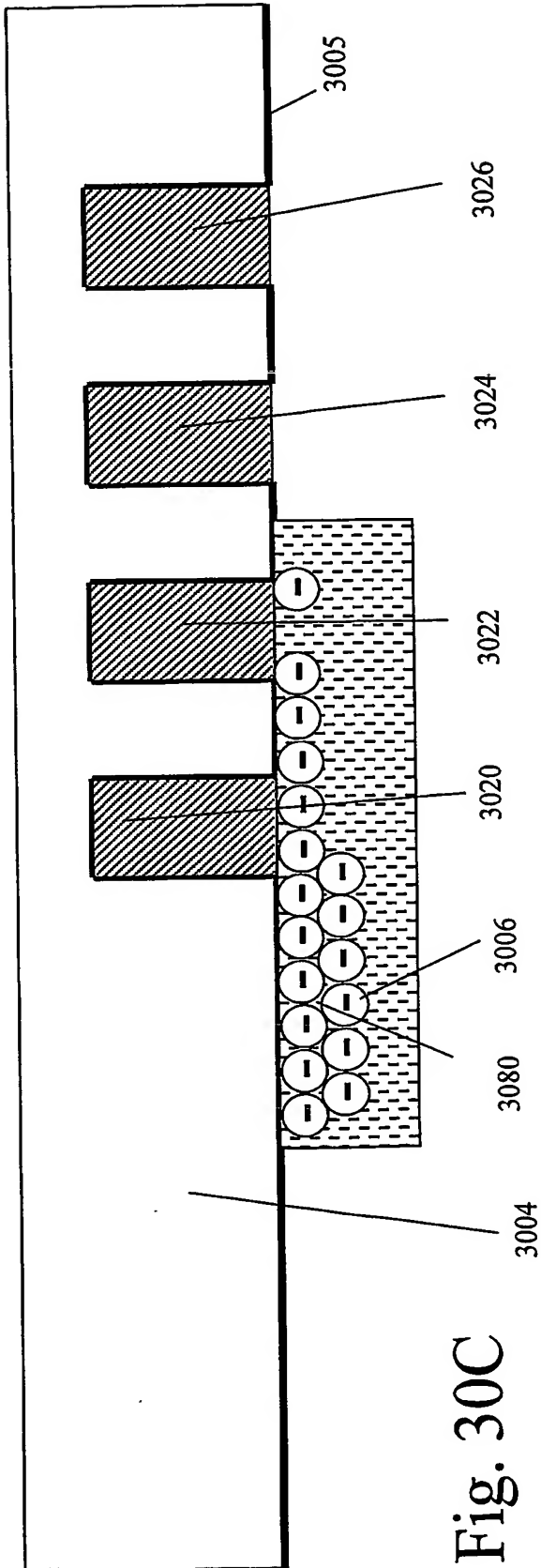


Fig. 29C

Fig. 29D





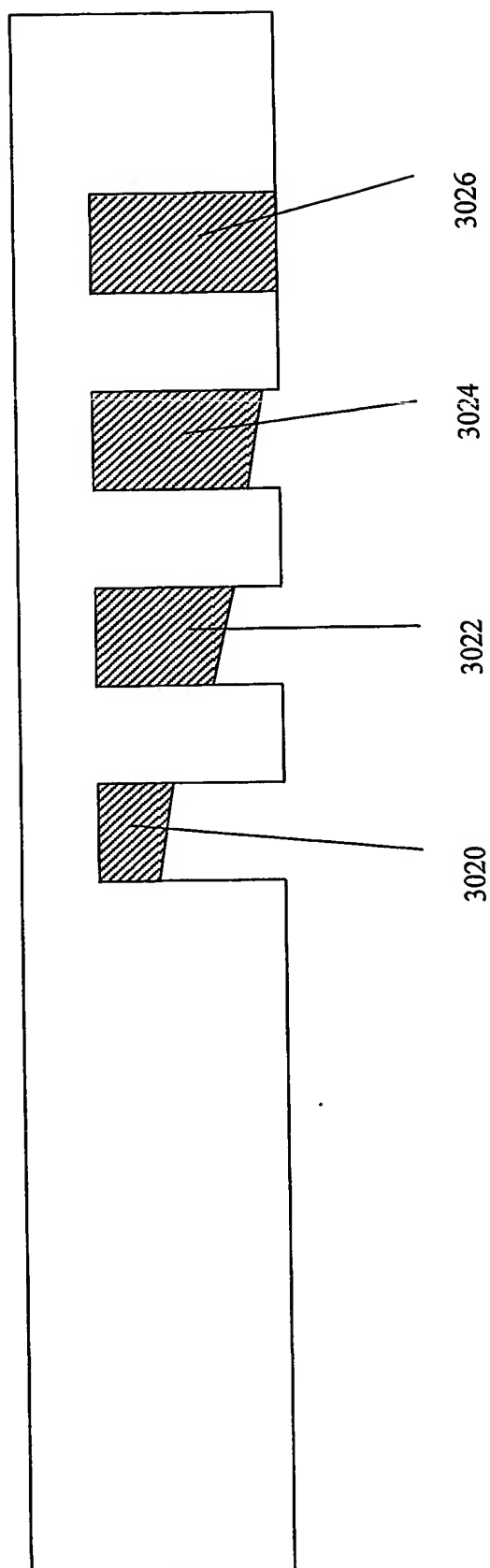


Fig. 30E

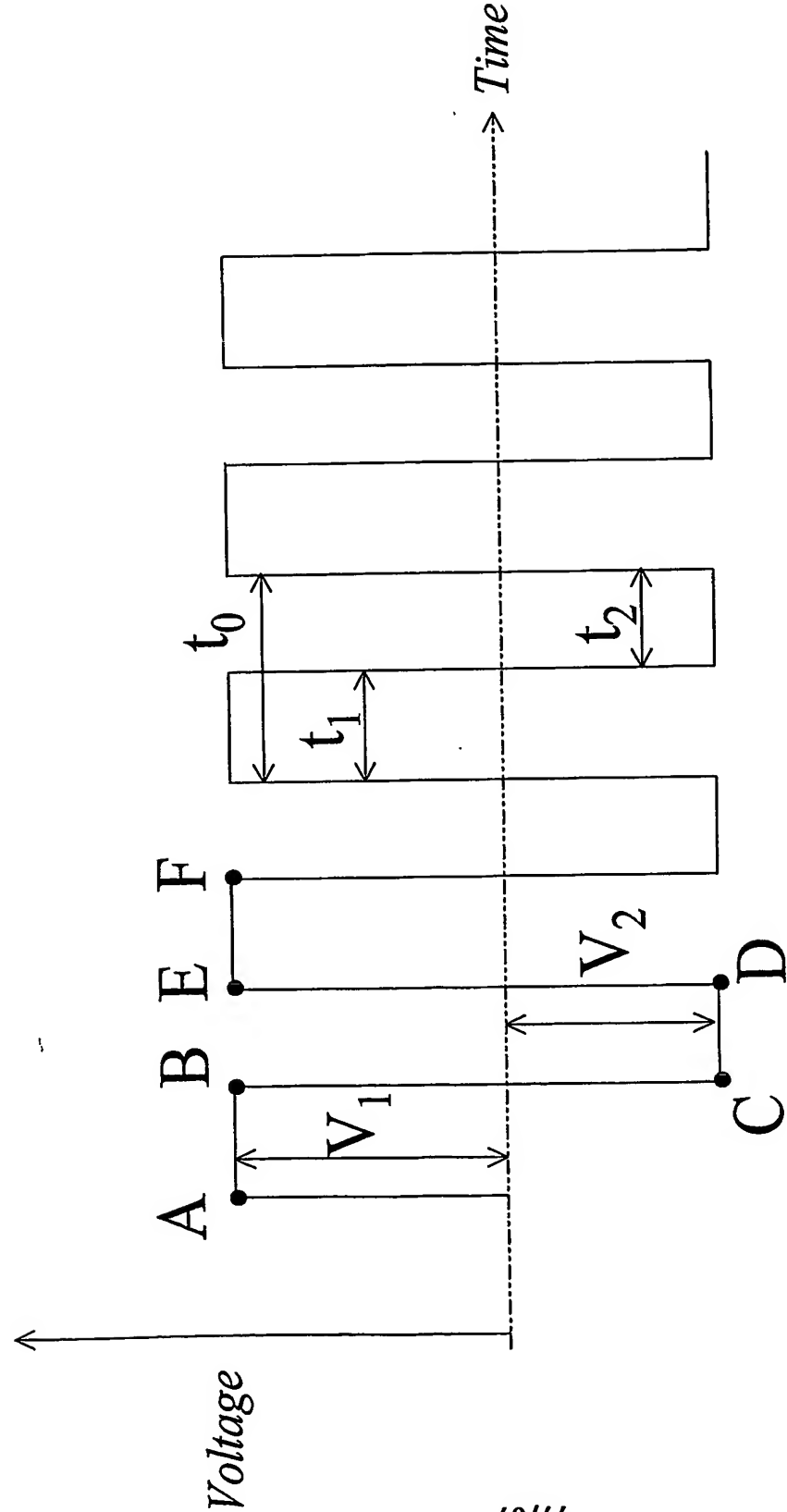
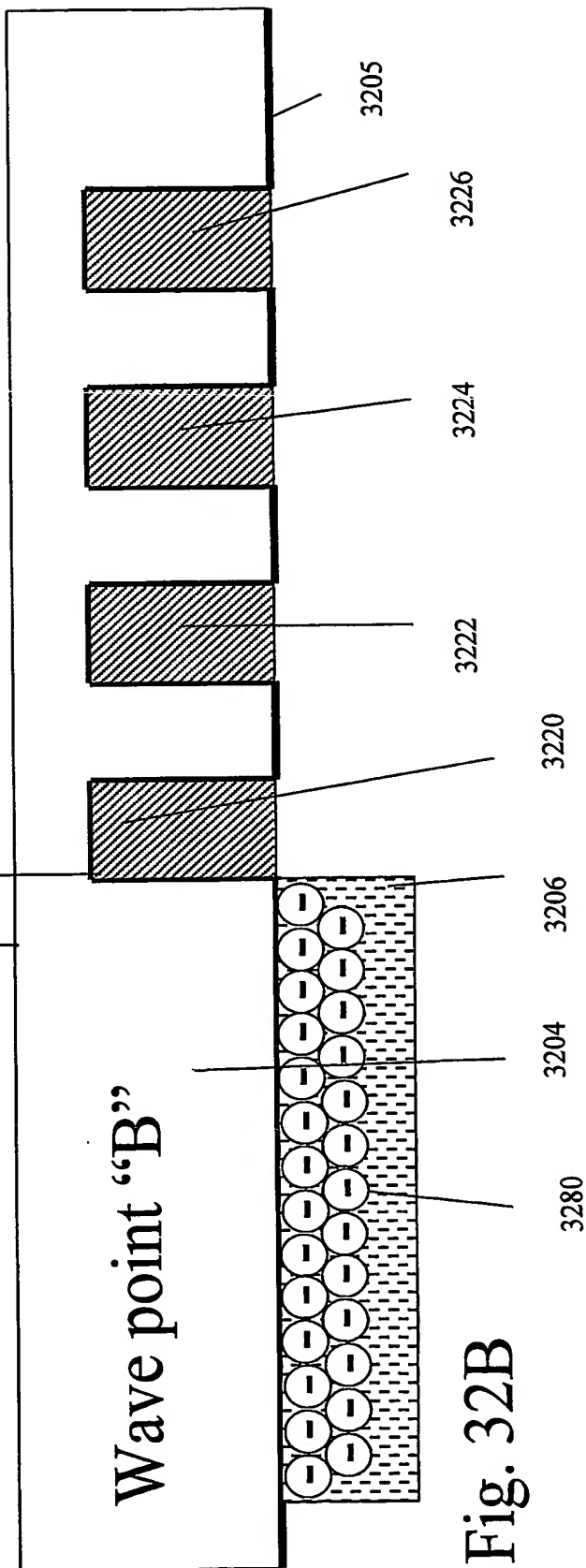
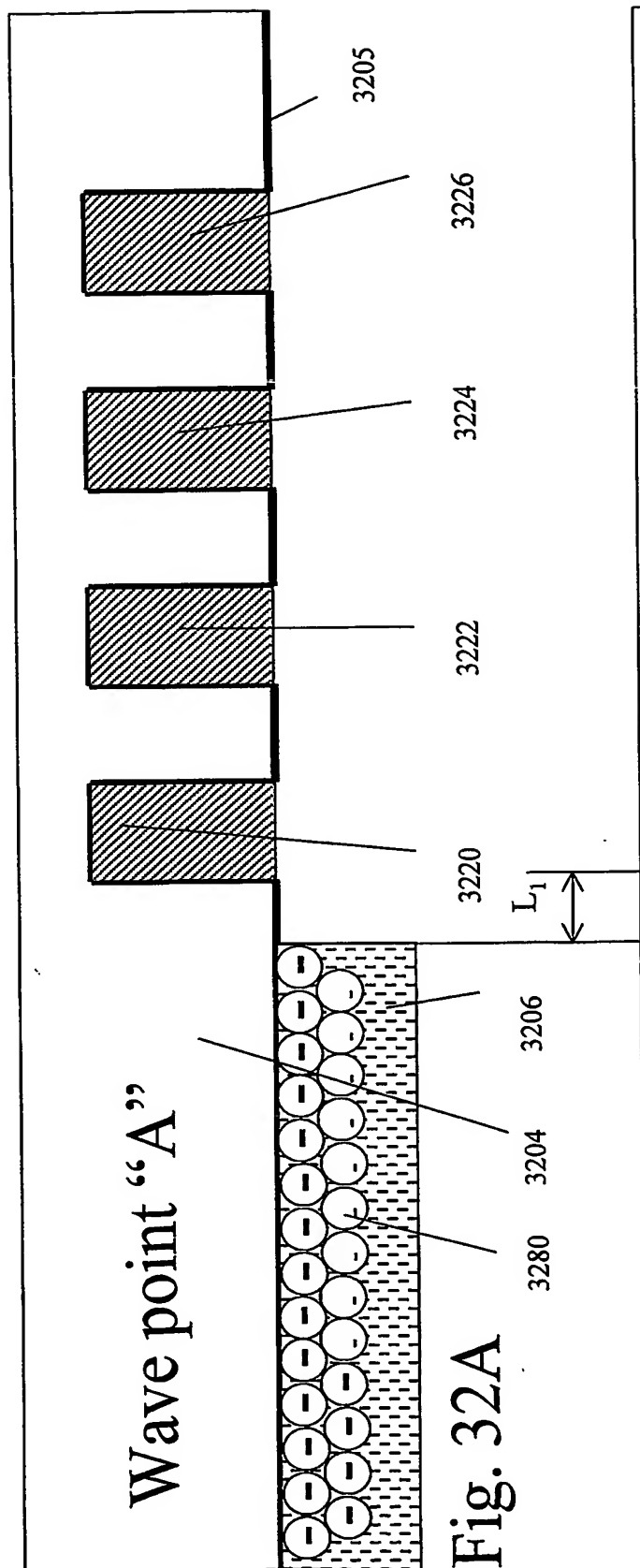
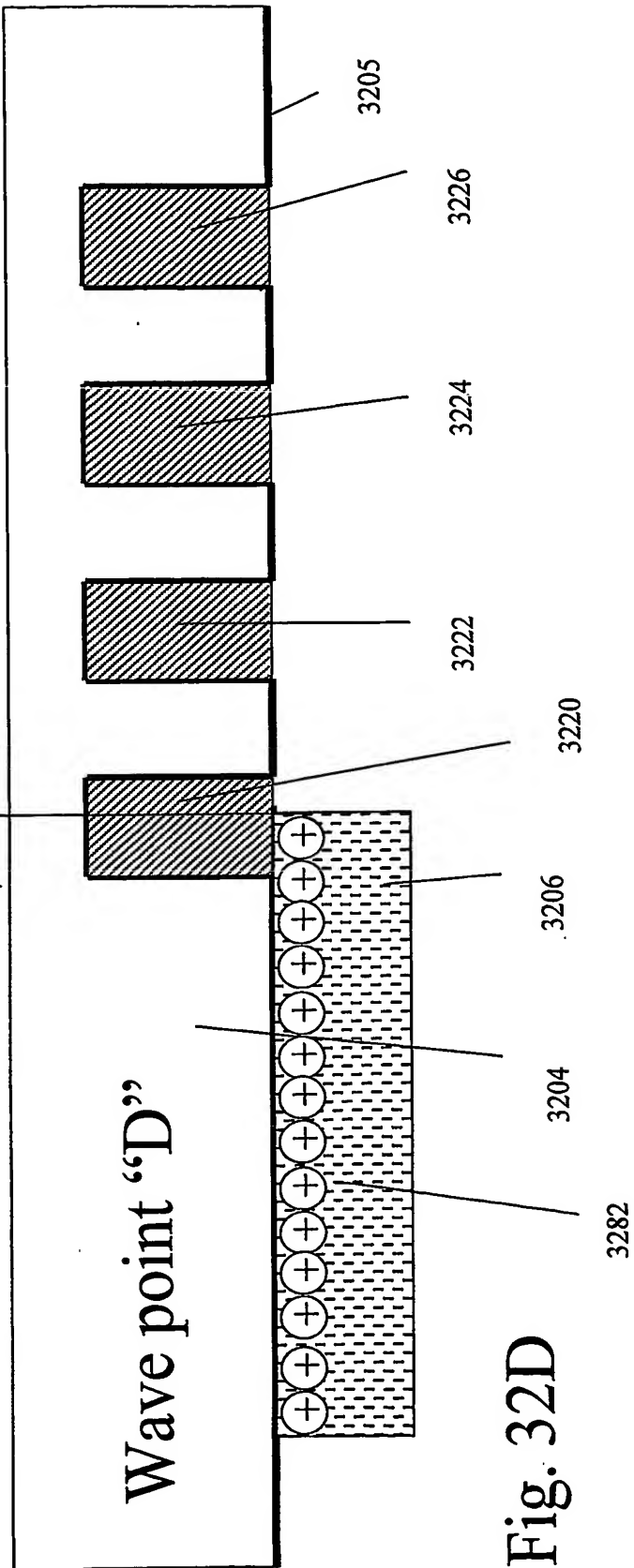
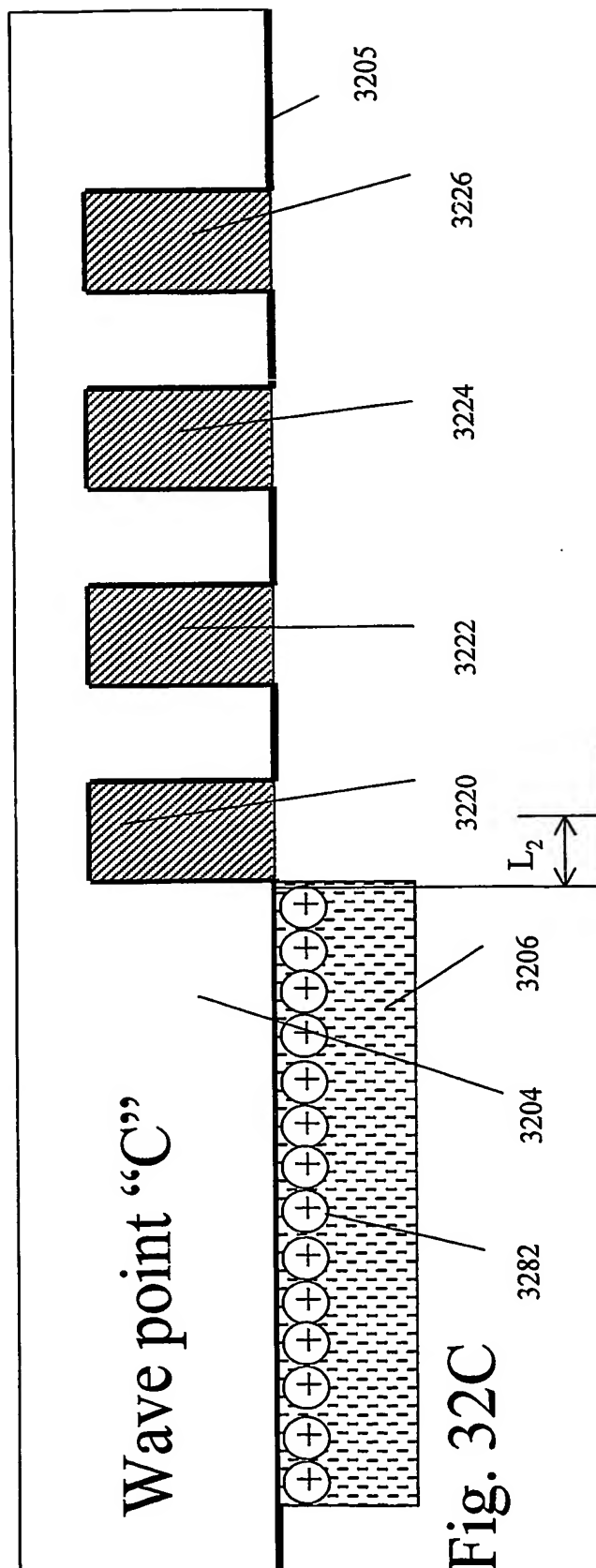


Fig. 31





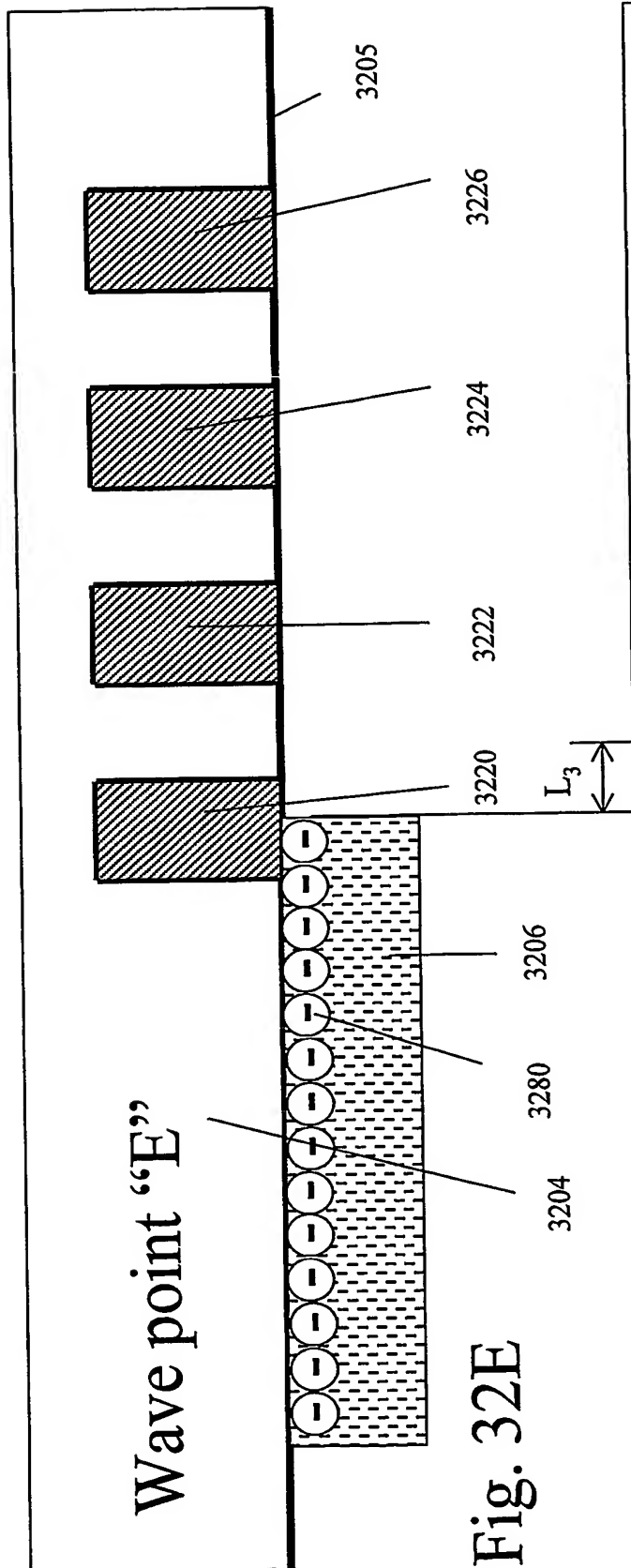


Fig. 32E

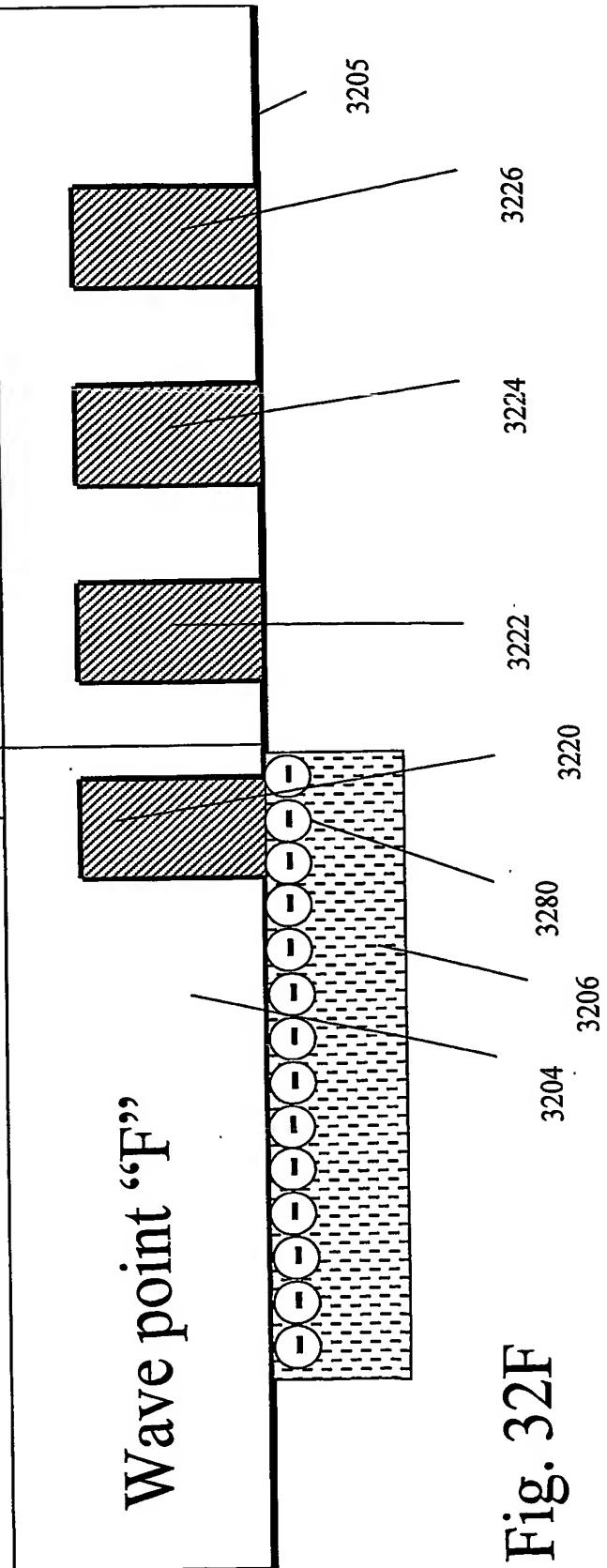


Fig. 32F

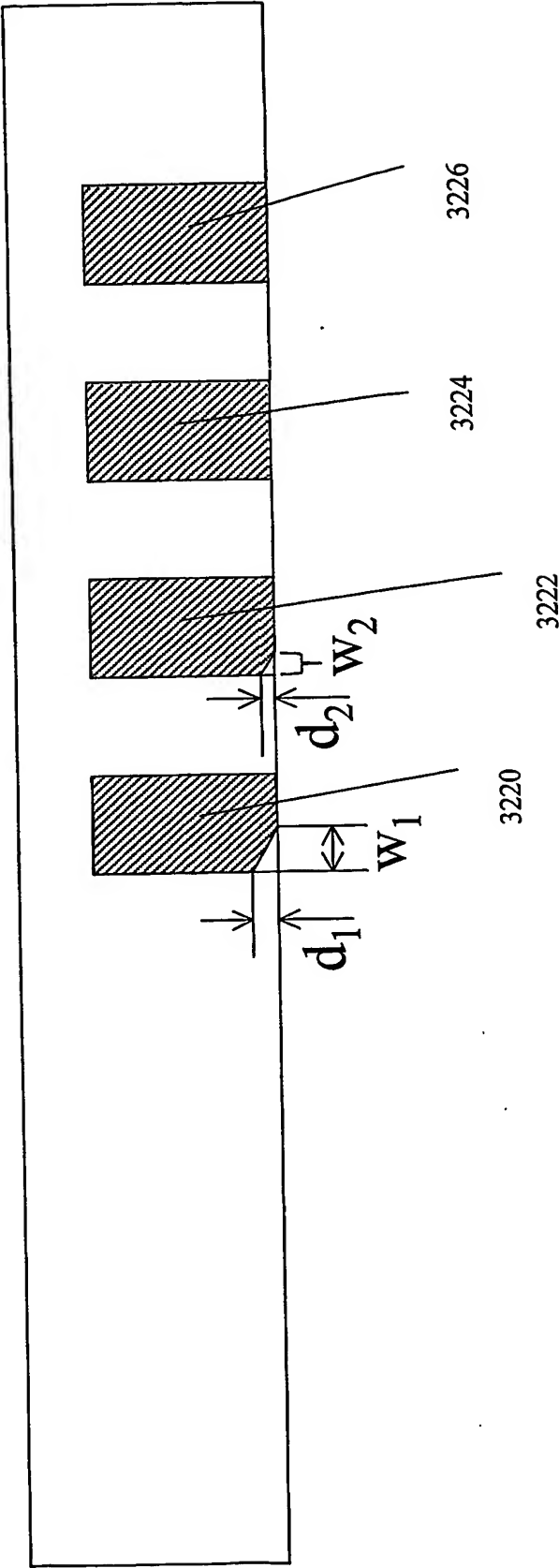


Fig. 32G